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BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the Gay & Lesbian Community for more than 25 years



Kitty cata: SFAF's Pat Christen gets showered with feline feces by ACT UP/SF's Ronnie Burk (standing) Oct. 17 at the Women's Building.

ACT UP/SF vs. SFAF: A real shitfight

by Dennis Conkin

An AIDS activist who dumped pungent and potentially infectious 14-week-old kitty litter on San Francisco AIDS Foundation executive director Pat Christen says he is unrepentant about the October 17 Women's Building action.

Christen was assaulted with the litter by activist Ronnie Burk as activists from the controversial San Francisco chapter of ACT UP and an ACT UP affinity group disrupted the Foundation-sponsored voters forum.

Activists distributed and set off stink bombs, blew whistles, and disrupted the event as supervisorial candidates Michael Yaki, Donna Casey, and Leland Yee gathered to discuss their positions on AIDS issues.

Burk and veteran San Francisco ACT UP activist Todd Swindell were cited at the scene on assault charges and later released.

Burk, a 41-year-old HIV-positive man, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he is unapologetic for the action—and attacked BETA, the foundation's treat-

ment publication, as a "mouthpiece for the pharmaceutical manufacturers."

San Francisco ACT UP is critical of the use of protease inhibitors and anti-retroviral drugs such as AZT.

Christen told the *Bay Area Reporter* that disagreements over the foundation's treatment policies and recommendations aren't the issue, and neither are disruptive tactics—or even civil disobedience—by activists.

"This is violence. Violence is criminal activity. There is absolutely no excuse for it," Christen said. "We will press charges. We have got to stand up against this and we will. It's not acceptable." She said that ACT UP/San Francisco's escalating violence "crosses the boundary line" of socially acceptable behavior, and must be addressed.

ACT UP/San Francisco spokesman Michael Bellefountaine said that the true violence that needs to be addressed is the AIDS Foundation's "grip on the flow of information for the HIV community."

Bellefountaine said that the activist

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Mondelli testifies about doctor's speed use, sex, and violence

by Dennis Conkin

Former San Francisco General Hospital psychiatrist Dr. Dean Freeman was ordered to appear in Superior Court on October 31 for the setting of a trial date, on charges that he tried to kill a former patient he is also accused of sexually exploiting.

Freeman, 37, is charged with stabbing local actor Mario Mondelli more than 20 times with a camping ax and a hunting knife, in a bizarre 1994 attack that left Mondelli with permanent injuries.

Mondelli, 40, nearly died from the attack, and was unconscious and on life support systems for almost three months at San Francisco General Hospital.

Mondelli testified during an October 17 preliminary hearing that the July 25, 1994 attack began when Freeman stopped by Mondelli's Ivy Street studio around 9 p.m.

"It was dark. He appeared exhausted and wired and agitated," Mondelli told the court.

Mondelli testified that Freeman

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Athletic field to be named in honor of Rikki Streicher

by Cynthia Laird

The athletic field at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center will be named in honor of the late lesbian leader Rikki Streicher, after a unanimous vote by the San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission at its meeting Thursday, October 17.

There was no opposition to the proposal that will change Collingwood Park Athletic Field, as it is informally known, to the Rikki Streicher Athletic Field. A dedication ceremony will be held on Sunday, December 15, Streicher's birthday, at the park, according to Hydie Downard, who had been a friend of Streicher's.

Streicher, who died of cancer in 1994, had been involved with numerous community groups, as well as a co-founder of the Federation of Gay Games. She was a lifelong sports enthusiast and was involved with women's pool and women's softball. She was inducted into the Gay Softball League's Hall of Fame in 1994.

She was also the owner of Maud's, a lesbian bar that was a community institution from the day it opened in 1966 until it closed in 1989.

At the recreation and park commission meeting, the room was full of Streicher's

friends. Mary Sanger, who had been Streicher's partner of 18 years, was visibly pleased after the commission's unanimous vote.

"I feel wonderful," Sanger told the *B.A.R.* after the vote.

She did not speak at the meeting, but did

bring with her petitions containing thousands of signatures she gathered in support of renaming the field. She said the petitions were signed during the summer softball season.

Downard said that Sanger has been "liv-

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Lauded lesbian: Rikki Streicher.

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Mighty real



This contestant at the Oct. 18 Paradise World Ball might be competing in the overall Re-ness category, then again she could be vying for the title of Bitch Queen Serving Face. Her antics were only a small part of the Brothers Network Fundraiser at the King Street Garage. Over 50 performers took the catwalk at the event, often rousing the crowd to a frenzy with their role playing.

New and young and gay? Let's do brunch!

by Jesse Costello-Good

Want to "chat about tricks and treats over hotcakes and homefries with other queer boys new to town?" Then Newcomer's Brunch is for you. It's a new social event by Q Action, the young men's program of the Stop AIDS Project, designed to reduce HIV transmission rates in gay and bi men under 25 who have just moved to San Francisco.

The Sunday brunches, free to participants, happen about once a month in various restaurants in the Castro.

So why brunch? "Gay men really like brunch!" David Boyer of Q Action told the B.A.R. The brunches are designed to "give newcomers a chance to plug in," find friends, and make connections in an unfamiliar city. Someone from Q Action is there to fa-

cilitate, but the conversation usually goes where it wants to.

"The atmosphere is really mellow and casual," according to Boyer. The conversation ranges from how to find an apartment to dating in the city.

The project was conceived and created by Joe Wright of Q Action. Newcomers to San Francisco are seen as a group particularly at risk for HIV transmission because they don't have friends and don't know the social scene. There are not many programs available to those who are new. Newcomer's Brunch, something that has never been tried before, is attempting to fill this gap.

"Guys who come to town are at the highest risk of sero-converting within the first six months of being here," says Boyer. Because of the estimated 42% infection rate of gay and bi men in San Francisco, "It's like walking into a

war zone, and if you're not suited up you might find yourself in a situation where you could get HIV."

The Newcomer's Brunches are linked to The Moment campaign. The "moment" refers to the three seconds when someone decides whether or not to have safe sex. The 30-week campaign uses Q Action's existing activities to examine this moment through various topics such as "drugs and alcohol" and "sexual motivations." The current topic is relationships, so the next Newcomer's Brunch will focus on dating and boyfriends. ▼

The next brunch, "Dating in SF," is this Sunday, October 27. The brunches are first-come first-serve, and are limited to about ten people. To sign up call 431-2228.

SoMa bashing trial begins

by Dennis Conkin

A University of California at San Francisco transplant team operating room nurse told a Municipal Court jury October 22 how he was taunted and beaten by four young men during an anti-gay attack last October.

From the witness stand, Ronald Bennett identified defendants John Cody Lee and Jonathan Bell as two of his attackers.

The pair are charged with misdemeanor hate crime and assault with a deadly weapon in the incident which took place South of Market on October 21, 1995, one year and one day before Bennett's testimony at the start of the trial.

John Stellan, a third person charged in the incident, failed to appear for trial, and a bench warrant has been issued by Municipal Court Judge Julie Tang for his arrest.

The East Bay residents were apprehended by the police shortly after the 12:30 p.m. attack, which happened after Bennett left the popular Lone Star bar on Harrison Street for the San Francisco Eagle.

Bennett told the jury that after hearing the sound of car tires screeching as he was walking across the street at Norfolk Alley, he realized that the defendant's car was headed directly toward him.

"Four guys jumped out of the

car, and this one guy started yelling, in a rap, that 'I'm from New York, we know what to do with this faggot. Let's beat the shit out of this faggot,'" Bennett said.

The car had blocked his exit, and as Bennett tried to reason with his attackers about their behavior, they continued the taunts.

Openly weeping from the emotional trauma of the anti-gay hate crime, Bennett told the jury that he asked the assailants if they realized they were in a gay neighborhood and why they were battering him.

The response was that they "knew they were in faggot country," and had come South of Market for "some faggot meat," Bennett said.

One of the men had bent over behind Bennett's knees so another could topple the Vietnam veteran over his partner's back, and the other men began turning Bennett in a circle and beating him with their hands and fists.

Bennett testified that Bell struck him in the face with his fist and that Lee also struck him, despite the opening argument claims of defense attorney Kevin Berman that his client hadn't participated in the attack.

During the attack, Stellan allegedly grabbed the metal ring from the shoulder epaulet of his leather jacket, placed it in his fist and tried to strike him with the object.

Bennett testified that the inside

of his mouth was cut, and that he was bleeding from an artery after a blow to his mouth. In an attempt to mark his attackers and also to frighten them into ending the vicious assault, he spat blood on them.

"I kept asking, 'Who are you? Why are you doing this? Why are you coming into my neighborhood and doing this?' I said no. I meant no," Bennett said.

At one point during the attack, a woman passenger in the car yelled out, "Kill the faggot," according to Bennett's sworn testimony.

During the attack, Bennett, who had received violence prevention training as part of his job, carefully memorized the identities of his attackers and also the license plate of the car.

He also kept loudly repeating the license plate as a way to keep himself oriented in the aftermath of the assault, which left him with multiple bruises and a concussion.

Bennett also suffers memory problems related to the injury, in addition to the post-traumatic emotional stress he continues to experience from the violence of the hate crime.

Bennett made his way to the Eagle, where police responded to the assault, and was able to identify Lee, Bell and his other attackers after police located them in a queue of people outside the DNA Lounge. ▼



Portrait of a crime: one of the mutilated artworks in Michael Johnstone's "Mrs. Vera's Daybook."

Visual AID artist's City Hall exhibit defaced

by Cynthia Laird

When Michael Johnstone returned from a trip to New York on Monday, October 21, there were several messages on his machine about his artwork, currently on display at City Hall as part of the Visual AID exhibit. Eight of his 11 photographs had been defaced by a person or persons unknown, apparently on Thursday, October 17 after most employees had left for the evening.

Monday afternoon he went down to see his photographic series, entitled "Mrs. Vera's Daybook." The pictures are of his partner, David Faulk, dressed in drag. Johnstone said he was disheartened as he looked at the pictures, which a vandal defaced with a pointed object, probably a ballpoint pen.

"I was kind of disturbed by it," Johnstone told the B.A.R. "The eyes were jabbed out, and they are pretty badly defaced. All the faces are X'ed out. It's all in the face and neck, like stabbings."

Johnstone, an artist living with AIDS, said he's at a loss to explain why anyone would do such a thing. The only thing he could think of was that the vandal apparently had a problem with the model.

He explained the pictures are meant to be humorous.

"To me, they're funny. I nearly died last year, and the photos are definitely not just a drag queen or a man in a dress," Johnstone said.

The exhibit, which has been on the third floor of City Hall since September 16, has been extended through December 1, Johnstone said. His defaced photographs will remain on display, he added.

"I am going to photograph them as they are, and they're staying up in their condition. I'm really sorry they messed them up; it's an incredibly mean-spirited thing to do. It's a hate crime," Johnstone said. "My work's not controversial. I've never had anybody attack my work."

How did it happen?

On Monday, October 21, Supervisor Leslie Katz denounced the vandalism. Katz arranged the "There's Art in City Hall" exhibit in conjunction with Visual AID/Artists for AIDS Relief. Artworks by four Visual AID artists make up the exhibit.

"I am shocked and saddened that someone would destroy art on public exhibit. I am especially disturbed that someone specifically selected work created by a person with AIDS to attack," Katz said.

Katz said she'll be following up with authorities both to ascertain who committed the vandalism and to determine how it could have happened in City Hall,

which has a security guard and metal detectors posted outside of the elevators of each floor.

"The fact that it happened at all, in 1996 in San Francisco, saddens and angers me immensely," Katz said.

Jim Fisher, executive director of Visual AID, which helps artists with AIDS continue their artistic activities, also condemned the vandalism.

"I think the vandalism is abominable, regardless of what's damaged. When you deface artwork I think it's especially foolish and reprehensible," Fisher told the B.A.R.

Johnstone, who is on a limited income, said the photographs were worth several hundred dollars. Because he has the negatives, Johnstone said he could redo the pieces that were damaged. However, it might be emotionally difficult for him, and the other materials needed are expensive, he explained.

"That work wouldn't be there without Visual AID," Johnstone said.

Faulk, the subject in the photographs, said they are about people who are different.

"I do feel like it was some type of hate crime. Who would want to stab a clown?" Faulk asked, referring to the photographs.

Other art exhibits that are displayed on the third floor of City Hall were not damaged. ▼

HRC provides free 'HIV in the workplace' workshop this Monday

by Cynthia Laird

Positive Resource will present a free workshop, "HIV in the Workplace: Rights and Protection for People Living with HIV/AIDS" this Monday, October 28 in San Francisco.

The workshop will offer an overview of the civil rights protections that exist for people with HIV/AIDS, with an emphasis on issues that arise in the workplace. Positive Resource is holding the workshop in conjunction with the San Francisco Human Rights Commission's HIV in the Work-

place Technical Assistance Project.

The workshop will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Positive Resource, in the Life Conference Center, located at 1675 California Street, near Van Ness. Limited parking is available and the site is wheelchair accessible.

HRC staff members Cynthia Goldstein and Brian Cheu will conduct the workshop. They will cover several topics, including employment discrimination and how to prevent it, how to get an accommodation from an employer so a person with HIV may keep their job even after they experience some disability, what medical information

employers are entitled to know, and where to go for help when facing HIV-based discrimination.

Positive Resource provides employment services for people living with HIV in the Bay Area.

The HRC's HIV in the Workplace Technical Assistance Project assists employers and employees in responding to the impact of HIV in the workplace. The project offers consultation, policy development, training, technical assistance, and referral services. ▼

For more information, call the HRC at (415) 252-2500.

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Community Center gets \$75K from foundation, grocery chain

Board also plans focus groups to get input

by Cynthia Laird

The planned community center for San Francisco's gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities has gotten a big shot in the arm in the form of \$75,000 in philanthropic and corporate donations, the Community Center Project (CCP) announced Friday, October 18. The project has also been recommended for a \$228,500 federal grant.

Scott Shafer, president of the CCP board of directors, said the community center will receive a \$50,000 two-year grant from the

San Francisco Foundation. Additionally, Safeway Stores has contributed \$25,000 to the planned community center, Shafer added.

The Citizens' Committee of the Mayor's Office of Community Development (MOCD) has also recommended a \$228,500 grant for construction of the center at the identified site on Market Street at the corner of Octavia Street. Shafer said the MOCD grant is pending final approval.

"We applied for it in August. The MOCD grant is actually federal Housing and Urban Development money in the form of a Community Development Block Grant," Shafer told the B.A.R.

The proposal for the community center consists of renovating a Victorian building on the site and constructing a five- to six-story building next door, for a total of some 48,000 square feet.

"This project is a great exercise in community building and leadership development," said Herb Castillo, program officer for the San Francisco Foundation. "The center will provide a centralized place to socialize, meet, work on important issues, and build community spirit."

San Francisco is the only major city in California without a community center for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community, Shafer said.



Jane Philomen, Oakland

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Signal of broad support

The contributions from the San Francisco Foundation and Safeway represent the largest single donations to date for the project, which is putting together a \$1.5 million fundraising campaign. In addition to construction and renovation, the grants will be used for preliminary development of the community center.

"We are extremely grateful for these early contributions from the city, the San Francisco Foundation, and Safeway," Shafer said. "It is very encouraging that these first major contributions come from organiza-

tions outside the lesbian and gay community. We take it as a signal that this project will have very broad support throughout the city."

In August, the Board of Supervisors approved \$1.2 million for the CCP to purchase the Market/Octavia property, using city funds left over from the expansion of Moscone Center. Mayor Willie Brown had identified the available money and endorsed using it for the community center.

Shafer pointed to that contribution as an indication of "unanimous political support for the project."

Environmental and real estate surveys of the property are now completed, and Shafer said CCP is on track to fulfill its contract with the owner of the Market Street property and purchase the site by December 1.

An architectural competition, when project designs will be solicited from firms throughout Northern California, is expected to begin later this year.

The overall budget for the project is \$7.3 million and is slated for completion by 1999.

Shafer said that the CCP board plans to have a series of commu-

nity focus groups in November and December, to obtain the broadest possible input for the center. People are encouraged to take part in these focus groups and share their vision for the community center.

The CCP board is especially interested in having people of color, lesbians, seniors, youth, bisexuals, and transgender people participate in the focus groups.

In a related matter, Shafer told the B.A.R. there are some vacancies on the CCP board of directors. Right now the board is looking for people who have accounting skills, he said.

"And we're always trying to enhance the diversity of the board," Shafer added, noting more lesbians are also needed. ▼

To participate in the community focus groups, call Dana Van Gorder at (415) 554-2599. The CCP Board of Directors' next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 20 at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 401 Van Ness Avenue. For more information about the CCP, call (415) 241-1526.



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Community Thrift Store and friends celebrate open house

by Mary Richards

On Thursday, October 17, the Community Thrift Store held its annual Open House, to thank patrons and give out third quarter donations to some of the 250 charities and groups that benefit from the business of recycling the leftovers in life.

Forget Macy's and Saks Fifth Avenue. If you want the real thrill of getting that special bargain, there's nowhere better than the Community Thrift Store at 623 Valencia Street between 17th and 18th. If you're a smart lady shopper who knows a good deal, or you just want to look like one, you'll be interested in the Donna Karan, Ann Taylor, and Guess garments on sale. For the other gender, or mood, there are Perry Ellis, Armani, and Geoffrey Beene suits hanging side-by-side with great lived-in leather jackets.

Alongside those specialty items, of course, is a less elegant, but endlessly fascinating array of practically anything you can name - kitchenware, fitness videos, CDs, cameras, linens, artwork and frames, toys, and children's garments - and one of the best used book collections in the city.

Steven Rascher, chairman of the Board of Directors, explains how it works. "The Community Thrift Store is a unique concept that was original here," he said, "and is being marketed all over the country, now, especially in the gay and lesbian community, as a tremendous way to raise funds for any and all kinds of charitable organizations.

"The merchandise is sold, through the computers automated to their account, and quarterly we give out checks to over 250 charities. We anticipate giving out record money this year. We've given approximately \$80,000 a quarter out so far."

In 1995 alone, Community Thrift distributed \$325,000 to non-profit groups.

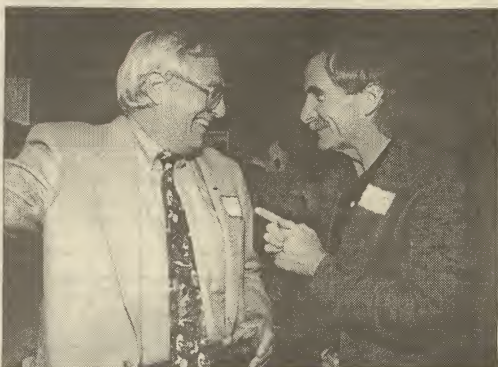
Tim Malone is general manager of the store, which he said "was started about 14 years ago by the Tavern Guild to raise money. When the AIDS epidemic came along, which just happened to be simultaneously, they decided to put the thrust that way. That's why the early big groups were AIDS-related organizations. Now, probably half of them are still gay and AIDS-related in some way or other."

'Work for the cause'

The first Open House, three years ago, was to celebrate the purchase of the large, 16,000-square-foot building on Valencia Street. A percentage of the store's profits is now used to pay off the mortgage as quickly as possible, and to pay for overseeing the property, their truck, insurance, and salaries.

According to Assistant Manager Leslie Weinstein, the store has 21 paid employees, and five volunteers. The rest of the staff is

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Community Thrift manager Tim Malone chats with Tom Nolan at the open house party October 19.

Jane Philomen Cleland



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Bob RossEDITOR
Mike SalinasARTS EDITOR
Chris CulwellPOLITICAL EDITOR
Wayne FridayASSISTANT EDITORS
Dennis ConkinRoberto Friedman
Patrick Hotel
Cynthia LairdINTERN
Claudia Figueroa

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Dianne Aaronson • Rene M. Astudillo
Erin Blackwell • John Blanco • Jaime Cader
Philip Campbell • Jesse Costello-Good
Jim Coughenour • M.R. Covino
Marianne Dresser • Beth Elliott • Chad Jones
Liz Highleyman • Robert Julian • John F. Karr
Jeffery Kennedy • Matthew Kennedy
I.A. Kisselman • Karl Bruce Knapper
Daniel Mangin • Mr. Marcus • Jerry Metzker
Gary Morris • Karen Ocamb • Deborah Peifer
Mary Richards • Adrian Roberts • Bob Roehr
Shan Schwartz • Doug Seto • Marv Shaw
Robin Sweeney • Rick Thoman • Paul Thomason
Stephanie von Buchau • Dick WaltersART DIRECTION & DESIGN
Adrian RobertsAD PRODUCTION & LAYOUT
Jorge Alonso

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Jane Philomen Cleland
Darlene/PhotoGraphics
Gregory H. Fleischer
Marc Geller
Rick Gerharter
Phil Migliarese, Jr.EDITORIAL CARTOONIST
Joe HooverGENERAL MANAGER
Michael M. YamashitaADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Chip MurrayCLASSIFIED ADVERTISING
David McBrayerBAR TALK &
GENERAL INFORMATION
Jason SnyderDISTRIBUTION
Andy McConnellNATIONAL SALES
REPRESENTATIVE
Rivendell MarketingLEGAL COUNSEL
Thomas E. Horn, Esq.MEMBER
National Gay Newspaper Guild
United Press International

Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street,
San Francisco, CA 94103
415.861.5019 • 415.861.7230

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Speed kills, or at least tries

This community is about as tolerant of others' peccadilloes and eccentricities as any that can be found this side of Scandinavia. We acknowledge, usually, that we are all outside the most rigid definition of "ordinary," and most of us believe that's a good thing. And since we can do without people trying to make us "normal," thank you very much, we generally stay out of our neighbors' affairs as well.

That's probably why the epidemic of methamphetamine abuse has gotten to its current state in San Francisco. Since we aren't prone to judgmental edicts, we haven't always made it clear to our friends and lovers that their crystal use is unacceptable. And that's too bad.

This week the gay victim of one of San Francisco's worst bashings (and sexual abuse, too, for that matter) took the witness stand to describe the horror of the attack that very nearly killed him. If the assault, which was carried out with an ax and a knife, could be blamed on suburban gay-bashing thugs or on talk radio's relentless message of intolerance, the community would be up in arms about it.

But the attack on Mario Mondelli, as we report in this issue, wasn't prompted by either of those forces. It was a domestic abuse case, and an attack fueled by speed. The talented actor who only barely escaped with his life repeatedly broke down on the stand as he recounted how a partner in love (of the physical kind, at least) spiraled into a state where he literally lost his humanity. The alleged attacker — the man police found in blood-soaked underpants next to the barely surviving Mondelli when they broke down the door that night — was a doctor.

A doctor. Clearly that is not a profession full of murderous lunatics, and if the suspect in question did the deed as reported, it's safe to assume he was not always the kind of person to make feral grunting noises as he stabbed a helpless victim some 20 times. Speed did that.

There are many readers who will not want to acknowledge these truths, and who will excuse their own crystal use as something entirely different from the abuse detailed in Mondelli's testimony. And while it is true that relatively few indulge in that kind of meth glut-tony, it is also true that *nobody's personality improves with crystal.*

Nobody's.

Most of us have seen a friend or acquaintance or trick flipped out with paranoia on the drug; most of us survive the occasion with nothing worse than a bad scare. Consider yourself lucky, if you are in that category. Certainly consider yourself luckier than Mario Mondelli.

The way to avoid a fate like his is to avoid crystal and the people who do it. If they offer it to you, they are not your friend. If they do

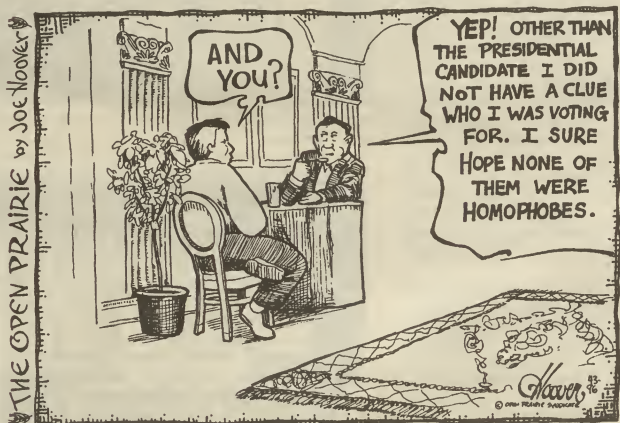
it around you, they are putting you in danger. If you love them, help them find professional help to get their addiction under control; if they say they aren't addicted, then make them prove it by stopping it.

This community can't afford crystal bashings any more than any other kind. Join in the fight to end the problem now.

Kudos, by the way, to Supervisor Susan Leal and her understanding that the situation warrants treatment upon demand to any drug user who wants it. All the lecturing in the world won't help if professional help is just an unattainable luxury to those who need it most. Her resolution directing the Department of Public Health to make the funding available is a terrific beginning to the end of crystal destroying our community. ▼



Editorial



'Skunks in tuxedos' pit critical AIDS needs against each other

by William Carter, San Francisco HIV Planning Council member

I was struck by the similarities between the doublespeak methods employed by the advocates of the recent Defense of Marriage Act (DoMA) and those by Paul A. DiDonato's "SFAF's defense of 'integrated, comprehensive' approach" in the Guest Opinion section of the October 10th issue of the *Bay Area Reporter*. Both arguments were carefully crafted to hide the true intentions and actions of the authors. In the case of DoMA, the actual intent was to deny Gay Americans the right to marriage by, in effect, weakening the Constitution. Similarly, DiDonato's "defense" is nothing more than an attempt to hide the fact that he, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, and CAEAR (Cities Advocating Emergency AIDS Relief) were responsible for a \$50 million decrease in funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP).

On September 20, 1996 Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi wrote a letter to John Porter, Chairman of the subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations, "to urge the inclusion of an additional \$100 million for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) in the omnibus appropriations package." The letter went on to explain why the money is needed in light of the availability of potent new drug therapies, and a severely underfunded drug assistance program.

Three days later on September 23, according to DiDonato, acting Director of Public Policy for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, the Cities Advocating Emergency AIDS Relief (CAEAR) Coalition was "first informed of this letter during a meet-

ing with Senator [Arlen] Specter's staff." On October 7, writing this time as a member of the CAEAR Coalition Executive Committee in a memo distributed to the San Francisco HIV Health Services Planning Council, Mr. DiDonato states that "upon learning of the so-called reference to ADAP as the recipient of additional moneys above the Clinton increase levels, the CAEAR Coalition ... raised concerns with Representative Pelosi and her staff." The level of "concern" raised was enough to have 50% of the original \$100 million for ADAP reallocated to other Titles.

There are three major problems with CAEAR's actions: First, how effective is CAEAR's advocacy on behalf of Title I EMAs if

they only found out about a \$100 million appropriation *three days* after the fact? Second, once they became aware of it, how well thought out was their response? Third, although the desire to increase funds to the cities is a noble one, did anybody look at the effect that reducing ADAP funds would have on PWAs everywhere? Did anyone ask what happens if you live in a state like Georgia — where, according to a memo from Project Inform on October 4, 1998, they "have only 5 drugs on their formulary and are constrained under eligibility criteria that limits ADAP to individuals who make less than \$9000 annually?"

In his guest opinion, DiDonato states, "We will not pit one critical HIV/AIDS program or funding need against another." This was the precise result of his efforts and those of other CAEAR Coalition members. The San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the members of the CAEAR should be hon-

est about their actions. In fact, \$100 million dollars was put on the table to pay for drugs for PWAs, and a coalition of AIDS Service Organizations sat down at that table and demanded half. This constitutes the "recent efforts to ensure across-the-board increases for all Titles" Mr. DiDonato wrote about in his column. Imagine the response if the CAEAR Coalition had lobbied successfully for a \$100 million increase in Title I funding, only to have treatment activists enter at the last minute and demand \$50 million, citing "moral authority and political conviction."

When our advocates spend more of their resources and energy pursuing limited funding than they do advocating for more effective and efficient services

and more appropriately priced drugs, PWAs lose. As long as they get away with the claim that the only viable responses to a reduction in resources are either reductions in services and reduced access to treatments, or more funding, then we all lose. Mr. DiDonato's so-called "integrated, comprehensive approach" is like dressing a skunk in a tuxedo: it may look better to some, but it still stinks.

The SF AIDS Foundation and the CAEAR Coalition would have done better to lobby for \$100 million increase in Title I funding, instead of a \$50 million decrease to ADAP. Instead, we are left questioning both the intentions and effectiveness of CAEAR and SFAF. High-minded moral indignation is no substitute for hard work, and divisiveness is no substitute for leadership in a time of crisis. Our individual survival, important to us as it is, cannot be gained at the expense of our fellow PWAs. ▼

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Gays and Clinton: Just say no!

Gay voters should send a clear message to the Democratic Party in the next election: our votes can no longer be taken for granted; they must be earned. The repeated intransigence of President Clinton should be met with a broad refusal to play any part in his reelection. He procured our votes by a fraudulent promise to allow lesbians and gay men to serve in the military, but wimped out to homophobic bigots like Silly Senator Sam. He did it again by signing the so-called Defense of Marriage Act.

Dole may be synonymous with discrimination (because about three-quarters of his appointees are likely to be anti-gay), but he won't be significantly worse than Clinton, under whom anti-gay witchhunts in the military have intensified. And there is no need to worry about Dole's appointing conservative judges. Most of Clinton's appointees have been moderate to conservative millionaires, and Senator Dole voted for 97 percent of Clinton's nominees. Neither candidate is likely to appoint any liberal judges who are sensitive to civil liberties issues. Referring to Clinton's failure in this regard, federal Judge Stephen Reinhardt said, "He blew it."

In short, no one concerned with civil liberties or who wants a President with a backbone should vote for the spineless wimp who now occupies the White House.

Richard Gayer
San Francisco

Dole's devil dues

I'm writing to urge B.A.R. readers to vote for Bill Clinton. The alternative to Clinton, whatever Clinton's shortcomings, is too painful to contemplate.

If Dole wins, I don't see how he can fail to deliver on some of the Christian Coalition's social agenda. The Coalition, under Ralph Reed's able leadership, has been soft-pedaling its homophobia, but don't kid yourself that the Christian right wishes us queers any good. To those who interpret the Bible literally, we are the work of the devil.

A Republican president will be under intense pressure to move on national legislation harmful to gays and lesbians. Expect to be attacked on these fronts: in the military, in public schools, in the area of immigration, in the right to adopt, in AIDS funding. Imagine Jesse Helms at the president's elbow.

Even if you don't care about the environment or the right of women to have an abortion, self-interest dictates a vote for Clinton.

James Queen
San Francisco

Under the influence

What a bunch of mixed messages in the October 10 issue of the B.A.R. The editorial "In Step with the Times" chastises those "who are supposed to be keeping us healthy" for not doing enough. Do we really need someone protect us from ourselves?

The gay community seems to be demanding the right to practice unhealthy lifestyles while not taking the responsibility for potentially harmful outcomes. We need to stop the "blame-ism" and start taking responsibility for our own actions. Why doesn't the B.A.R. advocate a more affirming outlook on public events by raising questions of the pervasiveness of alcohol and drug abuse in our community and why our beloved San Francisco has one of the highest alcoholism rates in the country? It is truly a sad commentary that the San Francisco gay community can only enjoy itself while under the influence.

Erin Brocklehurst
San Francisco

[We do.]

Global magnitude of HIV

Ed Zold (10/3) accurately describes the current crisis and controversy regarding funding for new HIV drugs in the U.S. but totally ignores the global magnitude of this problem. More than 90% of the estimated 22 million people currently infected with HIV live in developing countries and don't have any hope of obtaining even AZT, much less the new protease inhibitors. We cannot merely focus on getting effective antiviral drugs for ourselves and ignore the vast majority of HIV-infected people who are literally dying to get these drugs. Pressure needs to be applied to drug companies to drastically reduce prices and globally expand access to effective drugs. If pharmaceutical companies want access to HIV-infected patients for clinical trials, they should be required before drug testing even begins to guarantee reasonable prices. Local AIDS activists need to work with international organizations to add many more voices expressing our collective outrage at drug pricing policies.

John F. Krowka, Ph.D.
San Francisco

Daddy's leather art

On behalf of all the San Francisco Leather Daddys, I would like to thank everyone involved with our recent Leather Art Auction. I particularly want to thank: the San Francisco Eagle, for providing the perfect venue for the auction; the Wings Gallery, for providing wall space to exhibit the collection prior to the auction; Mr. Marcus of the B.A.R., and others for mentioning the event in the press; the artists and individuals who donated art for the exhibit and auction; Richard Bolingbroke, for helping set up the exhibit at both Wings and the Eagle; those who poured beer, assisted with the auction and money, and the collection of the art; and everyone who attended the event. A special thank you to Alan Selby and my fellow Leather Daddys for all their help in so many ways.

We exhibited and auctioned 44 pieces of original leather homoerotic art from nearly 30 different artists. In the process, we netted approximately \$6,500 for the San Francisco AIDS Emergency Fund, the designated beneficiary of the event. Hopefully, this will become an annual event during Leather Week benefiting our local charities while promoting leather art and artists internationally. In that regard, anyone having appropriate art to donate for future auctions should speak with me or any of the other Leather Daddys.

Tom Rodgers, Leather Daddy IV
San Francisco

Pine Street Fair success

I'd like to publicly thank everyone who made the Fifth Annual Pine Street Fair such a resounding success. I am amazed once again that together we were able to raise more than \$18,000 to support the AIDS Emergency Fund. That's a whole lot of hot dogs, house wares, books, baubles, brunches and raffle tickets.

To our major donors - Dr. Hal Call, Ken and Mike Everett, and the Fairmont Hotel - thank you. Your generosity made a huge difference.

To our volunteers - you gave me a good reason to get out of bed every day for a year. You proved that it's still possible for a group of committed neighbors to band together and raise some serious money. And, most importantly, you showed people living with AIDS that you care enough to help them make ends meet. I'm very grateful to you all.

Finally, my thanks to the nearly 650 businesses that support the "Every Penny Counts" project throughout the year. The jars that sit in your bars and restaurants, your stores and offices, are the true cornerstones of the AIDS Emergency Fund. Because each day you remind us that small and simple gestures sustain us as a community, and that every person and Every Penny Counts!

David Slocombe
Volunteer Street Fair Coordinator
AIDS Emergency Fund

None of the above

In the race for municipal court judge, I have a difficult choice to make. On one hand, I can vote for Kay Tsenin, who in the past had a lien placed on her by the IRS and has been the lover of a woman accused of murder but acquitted. (B.A.R., 10/10). On the other hand I can vote for Matthew Rothschild, who filed for bankruptcy six years ago to discharge his debts, while making a very decent salary.

With all of the talent in the gay and lesbian community, I'm amazed that this is the best we have to offer. Call me old fashioned, but I think that judges should be above reproach.

I could run up my credit cards, file for bankruptcy, not pay my taxes until the IRS slaps a lien on me, and then ask O.J. Simpson to be my friend and I would possess the same qualifications as Tsenin and Rothschild combined. While I intend to check "None of the above" in this race, the tragedy is that one of these people is going to win a seat on the bench, and the rest of us are going to lose.

Chip Gibbons
San Francisco

Party line

It is very clear that you and your publishing cohorts are closing ranks in the face of a growing opposition to the gay party line [that HIV causes AIDS]. This party line is, in spite of what you say, killing people. No movement can be built around such a pathology.

Gay men are especially gifted, and sooner or later the light will prevail amongst most of us and a new culture will emerge.

It is very clear to all of us who think that AIDS has become more than a disease - in the gay world it has become a religion, a cult. A cult of death!

It is gratifying to me that many of the gay newspapers in this country that propagate these lies are in serious financial trouble.

Fred A. Cline, Jr.
San Francisco

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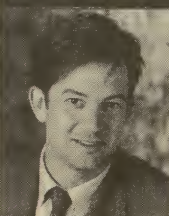
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Discipline the cops!

If Prop. E passes, it will give the Police Department the right to lift the requirement that voters approve any changes to current police discipline procedures.

The Police Officers Association for years has been trying to get disciplinary procedure away from the civilian review process and behind closed doors. If Prop. E passes, they will succeed in doing just that.

Disciplinary procedures in the New Year's Eve AIDS benefit raid, the Hongisto/Bay Times raid, and the "Castro Sweep" incidents could be closed to the public and take place behind closed doors.

Disciplinary rules are not like benefits! They are there to protect the rights of others, and they don't belong on the bargaining table!

Mary Griggs
San Francisco

Our cups overflow

I am constantly appalled and baffled at the depressing sight of plastic and Styrofoam cups bulging out of trash cans in the Castro. I have visited other cities such as Portland, Ashland, Oakland, and Eugene and have never seen such a display of neglect towards recycling and caring for our Earth.

At Pasquas Coffee House I noticed cups overflowing in the front waste cans, yet way in the back corner by the bathrooms were two small bins with faded writing that were intended as recycling bins were empty. If there were small signs in the front stating where to place these used cups, I'm sure a lot more of them would go to the recycling centers.

I like to hang out at this great cruising center and other joy bars in the neighborhood, but get sickened at the lack of concern and the ridiculous price we are paying to just get a quick fix. I really hope you print this.

Steven Lanusse Siegel
San Francisco

Intolerance of intolerance

In his response ("Compassion in the Castro") to my letter ("Street People"), Edisol W. Dotson suggests that I blame the "trash and litter" solely on the homeless. I do not claim the homeless alone make the streets dirtier and more crowded. I am as disgusted and frustrated as he is about the disregard for our neighborhood by people who thoughtlessly dump trash into the gutter.

I do not understand how Dotson can compare the issue of dirty, littered streets with the issue of HIV/AIDS and being more humane. Dotson seemed to be making the point that we, as a community, should be more tolerant and humane to other communities because the HIV/AIDS community, at first, was ostracized by others. We have overcome that by moving past our own prejudices and fears, and by helping ourselves. Today there are many support services for people with HIV/AIDS - as there are for the homeless. Many of these individuals are indeed homeless and need our help. There are services for them. But there is also a huge group of people who are absolutely healthy and who have many choices available to them - yet choose to come to our neighborhood and beg for our dollars.

Dotson has completely missed the point of my letter - Why are we supporting people who are intolerant of us? The Gay community has become powerful politically because of our intolerance of intolerance. Perhaps Dotson would change his blind, kneejerk, politically correct views if he himself was called "fag-got" on Castro Street for not giving a street person money. Perhaps Dotson would feel differently if he had to wash down the front steps to his home or business every morning because they are littered with urine or feces.

Perhaps Dotson would change his tune if he watched the "crippled" woman who sits on Castro street get up and walk - without limping - to the bus stop.

Perhaps Dotson would eat his words if he were hugged by the "friendly" man in front of Walgreens and had his wallet lifted or if the young, square-jawed blond man picked a fight with him. Anyone who is so concerned with supporting a community of people who scorns, ridicules and steals from us is myopic.

Yes, we are a diverse and tolerant community and as a part of that community I would never turn my back (as Dotson suggests) on a "community who most needs our help." The difference is that I feel that the HIV/AIDS community most needs our help. Again, I do recognize that some of the people on the Castro are indeed homeless and do need support services. But I do not feel compelled to help a group of abusive, intolerant, healthy-and-should-have-a-job-street people. Many of whom seem to have plenty of money for cigarettes, booze, piercings and tattoos. I suggest Dotson observe what his "handful of nickels and pennies" is really spent on - I think he might be surprised.

Sal Iacopelli
San Francisco

Castro predisposition

Sal Iacopelli's letter (October 3) is typical of a very specific and very shitty predisposition among gay men who live in the Castro.

We cannot assume that because the Castro is the so-called "gay Mecca" it is somehow immune from the problems, frustrations, and inequities that exist in other parts of this city, from the Tenderloin to Hunter's Point. We cannot assume that because we have "fought" for this "haven" that it is an unassailable magic bubble of lavender bliss sealing us off from the poverty and crime in other San Francisco neighborhoods. We cannot assume that if we just swish past the dirty vermin on the sidewalks and ignore them while tightly clutching the hand of the trick du jour that the homeless will just vanish like crow's-foot after a face lift.

Mr. Iacopelli paints a pretty picture of Castro Street innocence that does not conform with reality. Gay men just want to be left alone, he whines. These dirty smelly obnoxious homeless vagrants are ruining our nice sweet homo paradise, and what did we ever do to them? But the point is that a number of these homeless people are teenage runaways from small hate-filled towns in the interior of America where they were abused by family members or vilified for being different, whether that difference was being gay or being into dressing in black and dyeing their hair in bizarre colors. The point is that these kids, and other homeless, routinely encounter not the sunny equanimity that Mr. Iacopelli claims we display, but gay men who taunt them, spit on them, punch them, kick them, and hurl insults at them merely for sitting on their "clean" sidewalks. This kind of abuse even the stroller-pushing yuppies and gun-rack-carrying rednecks in Alameda and Antioch do not engage in anymore.

Gay men are not above materialism, not above xenophobia, not above prejudice, even as they walk into the bars that line Castro Street and play out their little salacious fetishes for "exotic" men of other colors. And sitting on the sidewalk, the last time I checked, is not a crime. Yet Mr. Iacopelli wonders why homeless people are "belligerent, dangerous, and homophobic" toward us. What complete arrogance.

How many of these homeless men and women that we treat like refuse are gays, lesbians, and transgendered who have found no niche to claim as their own? They are hounded by heterosexuals for being gay or of an otherwise alternative sexual orientation, and then they are ostracized by the residents of the oh-so-enlightened Castro because they are not dressed in the appropriate done wear.

It used to be that gay men aspired to transform American society. They talked about changing it into a safe harbor, not for conspicuous capital and shiny Sharper Image consumer products, but for divergence and diversity. Now it seems that the most some of us aspire to is to ape American society, and to throw noisy orangutan tantrums when our ghettos of denial are not quite as kitschy, smarmy, plastic, and dull as the rest of it. Ooook, ooooo! Monkey want cookie! Give me a break.

Frank Martinez Lester
San Francisco

Two tips of the hat

My hat goes off:

1. To Mr. Edisol W. Dotson:

To his "Compassion in the Castro" letter in reference to his response to the "Street people in the Castro" letter sent by Mr. Sal Iacopelli.

Mr. Dotson is very right on correcting Mr. Iacopelli about the fact that not only the homeless "make the streets in the Castro dirtier and more crowded."

I passed by the Castro on my way home on Sunday, October 6th at 7 p.m. I could not believe the amount of trash thrown in the middle of the street by people that attended the fair. Does Mr. Iacopelli believe that this eyesore was created by the homeless?

If Mr. Iacopelli wants to do to something for the Castro, that is not the complete domain of our gay community, he should start by protesting all the fast food junk proliferating on the Castro, or by demanding from the city government an upgrading of the Harvey Milk Plaza, especially its garden, among others.

If not, he should keep his antiseptic and prejudiced mouth shut!

2. To Dr. Raymond Fay

On his beautiful and sincere letter to Mr. Kevin Sibs and Mr. Gary Du Fresno:

As a Latino, born and raised in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, I felt offended when I read the original story. Also because I had been exposed to the fine and compassionate service that the California Pacific Hospital provides to HIV and AIDS patients.

I hope your letter serves as a lesson to many people (no matter their race) that still think it is funny to play ethnic jokes.

Jorge Rodriguez-Sanabria
San Francisco

POLITICS

Dole gets down... and dirty

by Wayne Friday

With less than two weeks before the November 5 election, and after two unimpressive televised debates with President **Bill Clinton**, Republican nominee **Bob Dole** has finally "gone on the attack" against his opponent, getting down and dirty. Mud, my friends, is being slung!

It all started the day of the second debate when the decision was made to attack the president for "presiding over an administration of scandals almost on a daily basis" and to liken the Clinton era to **Richard Nixon's** Watergate. However, taking off the gloves seemed to do little for Dole; polls following the second debate again showed him making little if any inroads. Indeed, most debate watchers scored it for Clinton.

Bill "I-Feel-Your-Pain" Clinton, leading Dole by 14-19 percentage points according to three national polls, has been able to brush off the barrage of brickbats with the élan of former President **Ronald "Teflon" Reagan**. During the debate itself, every time Bob Dole went for a low blow, Clinton would ignore the charge, whatever it was, and rely on his greatest strength, talking directly to the people in a calm, compassionate manner, making Dole look like an old sourpuss.

After enduring an hour of insults and attacks from his GOP opponent, Clinton put a stop to it by telling listeners that he would not engage in mud-slinging, instead ticking off stats designed to show that "our country is indeed better off than it was four years ago."

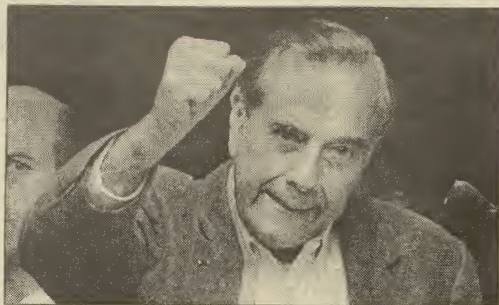
Dole has gone for the jugular as a last-ditch attempt to pull off a **Harry Truman**-like upset, but it's too little too late. This race never even got up to the gate.

Will Bob Dole go all out for California's 54 electoral votes in these remaining days? Clinton currently enjoys at least a ten-point lead here, but Dole backers, fearful of a huge Clinton win, are demanding that he spend both time and money in the Golden State to at least narrow Clinton's margin of victory as much as possible.

In particular, those 25 Republican House members from California are kicking up the most fuss. They went to **Haley Barbour**, the national GOP chair, and insisted that the party not write off the state so that they might save their own asses.

Respected California pollster **Mervyn Field**, whose own poll recently showed Dole cutting into the Clinton lead by nearly half, quietly told the Sacramento Press Club last week that Dole and his GOP supporters should not get excited about it because "there's no momentum here for Dole." Field noted that the poll showing Clinton leading Dole by 22 points was taken right after the Democratic Convention, adding that that kind of poll figure was bound to go away.

Field stated that Bill Clinton



No more Mr. Nice Guy: Bob Dole lowers the boom on Bill Clinton in the presidential race's waning moments.

has the support of women in California by 20 percent over Bob Dole, and that male voters are split about evenly. "Not enough time for Dole," said Field.

So why will the former Kansas senator be concentrating on California during the election count-down? Because an upset here is

his only real chance for a White House win, behind as he is in certain states that should have been a cakewalk for him.

Bill Clinton is, of course, aware of the Dole game plan, so we can rest assured that we will be seeing more—much more—of both candidates between now and November 5. Fortunately, our torment will soon be over.

Politics and people

I mentioned in a recent column that **John Lira** was the only open gay running for a seat on the local Community College Board. I meant to say the "only openly gay man!" Lesbian activist **Lauri Irving** is also a candidate; both Lira and Irving deserve our support November 5.

Dan Lungren shouldn't be telling us how to vote on Prop. 215. Vote yes on the medical marijuana initiative. Even the *Chron's* gotten on board this one, folks.

Barbs for Barbara: When Maryland Senator **Barbara Mikulski** (D), whose sexuality has been backroom gossip in D.C. for years, showed up at a bookstore in NYC on Oct. 10, the eve of National Coming Out Day, to promote a mystery novel that she co-wrote with **Mary Louise Oates**, *Capitol Offense* (Dutton), she was confronted by angry gays and lesbians in the largely gay Chelsea area of the city who were still pissed at her vote in favor of the GOP-sponsored Defense of Marriage Act (DoMA). A shouting match broke out between Mikulski's co-author (the senator kept quiet through most of the rancor) and activists like **Michelangelo Signorile** and **Kendall Queer** (former *Outweek* publisher), who refused to let the senator get away with her betrayal.

When asked outright if she was indeed a lesbian, Mikulski remained silent and let her co-author do the talking. Oates noted, seemingly as means of exculpation, that "I'm on the board of the Human Rights Commission; I'm going to the Quilt; I was in the anti-war movement; the senator voted before in favor of gay and

lesbian civil rights."

The audience, however, was far from satisfied. Finally, Senator Mikulski, feeling the heat, left the store with a woman many described as the senator's girlfriend.

Lesbian activist **Ann Northrup**, meanwhile, urged gays and lesbians around the country to check with their local bookstores and with Mikulski's publishers to get her book tour schedule. "Senator Mikulski should be confronted by lesbians and gay men at every bookstore appearance in every city she visits," Northrup emphasized.

How about supe candidate **Margo St. James** making *Newsweek* magazine, due to her quip on being introduced at the staid, venerable Concordia Argonaut Club: "I'm pleased to be here. Nice to see so many familiar faces." Don't be at all shocked if the popular Ms. St. James places in the top six come the election.

San Mateo County's popular Assemblywoman **Jackie Speier**, termed out this year, will run for **Quentin Kopp's** state Senate seat in 1998, unless her friends can talk her into taking a shot at Representative **Tom Lantos'** D.C. job. Lantos is expected by many to retire after his next term.

California surprise: the state GOP is not saying much about what they thought would be a hot issue: Prop. 209, the affirmative action scheme they thought would serve as a wedge issue to drive voters away from the Democrats. The initiative simply isn't getting much attention, and state Republicans have made a decision to leave it alone.

White House pretty boy, the 34-year-old, gay-friendly **George Stephanopoulos**, says he will likely move on to another job in the corporate world if Clinton is re-elected. I met George once, and I gotta admit... I was pretty impressed.

National newpeople covering the presidential campaign will tell you that **Ross Perot**, convinced it was the Dole camp that kept him out of the debates, is privately admitting without much prompting that he "hopes Bill Clinton kicks Bob Dole's ass back to Kansas."

From the Tar Heel state comes the news that **Jesse Helms** refuses to debate **Harvey Gantt**. Could it be that Helms is afraid that North Carolinians will finally discover that he has nothing to say beyond his usual spew of invective? I think Gantt will win this race next month on his second try, and then Bob and Jesse can have long talks on the front porch about what went wrong for them in '96. ▼

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Begin the bequeath

by Beth Elliott

When last we left our heroine, she was pondering but one of the threads woven into modern (i.e., post-Stonewall) lesbian culture, a culture that now has had the time to develop and mature sufficiently (no comment) to have customs, mores, and traditions that can be transmitted from age cohort to age cohort, generation to generation. Actually, I don't think there's any one lesbian culture, given the various traditions women live out: the bar subculture, which has some overlap with but is distinct from the dance club culture; the "women's community" somewhat political culture; the culture of that segment of lesbian businesswomen and professionals that has remained mostly closeted; etc. But for the sake of discussion, let's concentrate on lesbians who talk (and write) about modern lesbianism and its meaning—in both the larger culture and to the indi-

vidual.

Specifically, last week, I spoke of a friend who had lived out that cliché of wishful thinking that actually is uncommon among random lesbians: the woman who turns to women after "bad experiences with men" (in this case, brutal rapes). I wondered aloud about how much the above-ground lesbian community of the past quarter century has been shaped by women who turned to relationships with women for political reasons. They are not the only instance of forces from outside the aggregate of women who love women (more than platonically/feminist theoretically) shaping urban lesbian culture.

In the mid-to-late '80s, pressure to circle the same-sex-oriented wagons into a unified lesbian/gay community identified primarily with the fight against AIDS brought with it much propaganda about the nature (and practice) of lesbian sexuality, just as radical feminism had in the previous decade. We went from

one "official" version with a hidden political agenda to another—from a desexualizing of womanly love to a hypersexualizing of it, with neither being an accurate assessment of how the women just going about their lives and loving women were actually living and loving. And we haven't even touched here on the "lesbian as activist/social worker to the world" cult.

Very superstitious

There's another factor at work here, too: the element of superstition in, well, not just our politics but all American politics, thanks to the journalistic (and political) practice of grabbing scary sound bites to make a point and letting them mushroom into what passes for political analysis. A recent example was the recent hoopla over schoolboys being labeled sexual harassers for innocent kisses, thanks to hysterical political correctness. Columnist Ellen Goodman did the fact-checking the reporters should have done, and found a different picture.

As it turns out, the North Carolina six-year-old was not suspended, and not accused of sexual harassment; he was sent to another room for breaking a rule about unwanted touching, after the girl he kissed complained. The New York second-grader was suspended for sexual harassment; he had pestered a number of girls, and his mother had twice been asked to come to school to discuss his behavior.

Still, we cannot dismiss out of

hand accusations of feminist political hyperbole going beyond logic and common sense. The mystical world view in which all male-female interactions (and even female interactions) are tainted by the "heteropatriarchal rape culture," as personified in the Dworkin-MacKinnon Model Anti-Pornography Statute, became law in two cities before being tossed out by courts on constitutional grounds.

Thus, it is only natural (and a sign of intelligence) for the thinking lesbian to both regard and be skeptical of both Susan Faludi (*Backlash*) and Christina Hoff Sommers (*Who Stole Feminism?*).

Moments of uncertainty

This makes for moments of great uncertainty about ideas set forth by lesbian intellectuals. One

doubts sociological objectivity is possible and should be supplanted by a subjective female view—a view that sees oppression everywhere.

Says Kreiger, "I as [young women's] teacher come along and say, 'Equality won't exist for you, and it never has, and you've already been wounded badly' ... so the first thing I have to do is deal with their resistance to seeing gender at all," and so forth. Do I take Faludi's view that this is pointing out backlash, or Sommers's view that this is valuing superstition over critical thinking? I don't know. What I do know is that I can't rule out the latter—or my uneasy suspicion this is the likely answer.

Among what gets passed along from lesbian to lesbian like the family silver are belief systems

Among what gets passed along from lesbian to lesbian like the family silver are belief systems that are filters for parsing information we get about our world from numerous sources, all of which may be biased or whose reportage likely is incomplete.


of our academics has a new book out in which she speaks of how women hand down knowledge and wisdom, values and mores to each other, and the *Chronicle* gave it major attention. The book is *The Family Silver: Essays on Relationships Among Women*, by Stanford Feminist Studies professor Susan Kreiger (and published by Cal—go fig).

This book sounded interesting when I read the review and Pat Holt's commentary one Sunday. Kreiger has a long academic track record, and her topic is relevant not only to women but to understanding humans and our culture, knowledge, and civilization. But I couldn't assess whether I would find it illuminating, thought-provoking reading or theoretical piffle (and I don't yet have a Deborah Peifer review to help me gauge this). Kreiger is of the school that

that are filters for parsing information we get about our world from numerous sources, all of which may be biased or whose reportage likely is incomplete. Too many just adopt the practice of assuming emotion-wrenching headlines, and the sound-bite reactions, are sufficient for extrapolating the truth. For an example of how thoroughly that can mislead, refer back to the Ellen Goodman citation above.

Wanting to dig deeper for facts oneself is a good, intelligent, and mature thing—but also a very lonely thing. After all, you can't take skepticism, research, and reflection to a political rally, or get a sense of belonging from them. "Common knowledge" based on insufficient data and emotion-laden spin become what we bequeath. With our heritage, we deserve better. ▼

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Are adolescent boarding schools hotbeds of hot beds?

by Simon LeVay, Ph.D.

There are several movies that depict queer romances in single-sex boarding schools. Forever top of the list must be the 1932 German classic, *Maedchen in Uniform*, in which the teenage heroine falls in love with a (much older) teacher. Male examples of the genre include Lindsay Anderson's 1968 film *If....* As with *Maedchen*, this film depicts an age-disparate homosexual relationship, although it isn't the film's central focus. The older of the two schoolboy lovers is a "prefect," while the younger is a "fag" – the confusing Britishism for a pubescent peon who toasts crumpets for the prefects' afternoon tea, etc.

Although both these films treat same-sex desire in a positive way, they could be said to bolster a commonly held opinion, which is that attendance at single-sex boarding school influences young people toward homosexuality. In fact there were plenty of voices, over the years, warning that if this kind of educational arrangement were allowed to continue the British Empire (or the German Reich) would collapse, a victim of the non-reproduction of its ruling classes. And even today at least one sex researcher, Heino Meyer-Bahlburg of Columbia University, believes that single-sex schooling is one route to adult homosexuality.

The truth of this hypothesis was tested in the British National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles. This eight-year survey, whose results were published in 1994, was based on questionnaires completed by a randomly selected sample of about 19,000 men and women. About 400 of the men and 350 of the women had attended single-sex boarding

schools. These men and women were indeed much more likely to have experienced gay sex than the rest of the sample. Among the women who had been to boarding school, five percent had had a sexual experience involving genital contact with another female, compared with less than two percent for the women who had not been to boarding school. Among the men, the corresponding figures were ten percent and four percent. Clearly, attendance at single-sex boarding schools greatly increases the chances that a person will have dipped at least once into the honeypot of gay sex – presumably while he or she was in that same-sex environment.

But quite different figures emerged when the researchers asked about the men and women's current sexuality. Only about one percent of the men, and 0.5 percent of the women, had had same-sex genital contact during the last five years, and these figures were virtually the same for those who had boarding school experience and those who had not. So, the "situational" homosexuality associated with boarding schools has no particular influence on what people do in adult life. These results are contrary to what one would expect if role-modeling, recruitment, or the nature of one's early sexual experiences played a significant role in establishing patterns of adult sexuality.

Why, you may ask, had only one percent of the men and 0.5 percent of the women engaged in gay sex during the previous five years? Is this part of the no-sex-please-we're-British syndrome? Apparently not, for those percent-

ages corresponded almost exactly to the percentages of the interviewees whose sexual feeling were mostly or entirely homosexual – there don't seem to be legions of sexually inactive British queers any more. And quite similar figures have been reported for a number of other countries, including the United States. So it looks as if gay people

are not as common as we sometimes imagine. Under-reporting may of course be a factor, but the famous "ten-percent" figure, which is based on a misinterpretation of the 1948 Kinsey report, really needs to be retired.

As for the British Empire, it's an under-appreciated fact that queers played a leading role in its expansion and maintenance. Oppressed by the stuffy heterosexuality of Victorian drawing rooms, or threatened by the sodomy statutes, they headed for the bush in droves. Diamond hunter Cecil Rhodes, General Gordon of Khartoum, nursing pioneer Florence Nightingale, Boy Scouts founder Lord Baden-Powell – they all sought to perpetuate dormitory life on savannah, desert, or the high seas. ▼

Queer Science

Simon LeVay, Ph.D., attended

Dulwich College boys' school in London, England. He is the author of *Queer Science* (MIT Press, 1996) and the co-author (with Elisabeth Jonas) of *City of Friends*. He is also the co-founder of the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood. He can be reached care of the B.A.R. or at SLeVay@aol.com.



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Bubbeh knows best tonight

by Don Romesburg,
GLAAD/SF media
resource center manager

Bubbeh Lee and Me, a 35-minute short film by gay San Francisco filmmaker Andy Abrahams Wilson, will air tonight (October 18) on HBO. The sensitive and light-hearted video documentary about Wilson's visit to his grandmother Lee Abrahams in West Palm Beach, Florida will also air October 21 and 27.

In his narration, Wilson describes the time with his bubbeh as time spent grounding himself and exploring his Jewish roots. He also draws parallels between her toughness and his own courage to come out as gay. Abrahams admits that she has trouble accepting it, but that her love overpowers any disapproval she feels.

The film is an excellent example of how the closeness of a family can help break through intolerance and misunderstandings about lesbians and gay men.

Please thank HBO for giving this simple and optimistic independent film strong airplay, and encourage them to continue to do so.

Contact: Jeff Bewkes, President and CEO, HBO, 1100 Avenue of the Americas, New York NY 10036, fax: 212.512.5517; WWW feedback form: <http://www.hbo.com/cmp/feedback.html>

I was a teenage lesbian

The November issue of *Seventeen* magazine features a cover story about young lesbians who are coming out in high school and the issues that they face. The article, entitled "It's Who I Am," both describes the broader problems like institutional homophobia and the individual quests for love and acceptance.

As 16-year old Nicole from Mountain Top, Pennsylvania says, "In sixth grade, I started realizing I was different. I just felt so out of place." But then in the summer before eighth grade, she kissed her first girlfriend.

"I was like, Wow. I was so happy."

Author Sadie Van Gelder also gives a number of resources, including the National Center for Lesbian Rights, PFLAG, and the National Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Youth Hotline, and weaves the role of these organizations into the experiences of the young women interviewed.

Please congratulate *Seventeen* on an excellent article which details many of the challenges and joys of being an openly lesbian teenager.

Contact: Caroline Miller, Editor-in-Chief, *Seventeen*, 850 Third Avenue, New York NY 10022, fax: 212.407.9899, e-mail: ask17ol@aol.com.

Backward christian soldiers

On Sunday, October 13, the *Washington Post* ran "Dole's Lost Army of Christian Soldiers," a commentary by Martin Mawyer, President and founder of the Christian Action Network (CAN), criticizing Bob Dole lack of "strong commitment to fami-

ly values," and saying "little or nothing" about gay and lesbian issues.

About education issues, Mawyer says, "Bob Dole seems not to have noticed that our schools have begun to teach our children that homosexuality is normal, natural, and healthy." He goes on to criticize recognition of gay and lesbian federal employees, citing the Transportation Department's celebration of Gay Pride Day and Commerce Secretary Mickey Cantor's acknowledgment of gay, lesbian, bisexual awareness month in a memo.

Mawyer questions whether or not a Dole administration would "stop such practices," and makes sweeping statement about gays contributing to "moral decline" with a "gay rights agenda in virtually every Washington agency."

Mawyer, whose organization produced anti-gay political ads during the 1992 presidential campaign, uses rhetoric and untruths to promote his own agenda. His hate-filled language only fuels misunderstandings about the rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender people.

While a variety of opinion is an important component of the "Outlook" section of the *Washington Post*, voices of bigotry should not go unanswered. Remind them that the inclusion of gay and lesbian voices to counterpoint commentaries like Mawyer's is necessary.

Contact: Steve Luxenbourg, Outlook Editor, *The Washington Post*, 1150 15th St. NW, Washington DC 20071, phone 202.334.6000, e-mail: web-news@washpost.com.

Associated Press gives homophobe Dornan special rights

In an October 14 Associated Press news article entitled "Rep. Dornan in Danger of Losing GOP Seat," Scott Lindlaw, the author of the article, made clear his anti-gay bias by using the religious radical buzzphrase "special rights" in lieu of the non-bigoted and accurate "equal rights" when referring to protections for lesbians and gay men.

As he describes the differences between Southern Californian incumbent Representative Bob Dornan (R) and his Democratic challenger Loretta Sanchez, he wrote, "Dornan and Sanchez disagree on virtually all the issues. He is zealously anti-abortion; she favors abortion rights. ... He opposes special rights for gays; she favors them."

The use of the politically charged phrase "special rights" in this context is both wholly offensive and totally inaccurate. By choosing the term, Lindlaw editorializes, claiming that providing laws preventing employers and others from discriminating against people on the basis of their sexual orientation is somehow "special" treatment. The term "special rights" is an invention of anti-gay religious radicals to cloud the otherwise self-evident truth that everyone, including lesbians and gay men, should be given the same opportunities

to fully participate in our society without fear of discrimination on the basis of race, religion, disability, gender or sexuality. To use the term in a political speech is shameful; to use it in a supposedly "objective" news article is inexcusable.

Write the Associated Press and let them know that reporter Scott Lindlaw's singling out lesbians and gay men for "special" discrimination is ignorant, unethical and unforgivable.

Contact: Steve Loper, News Editor, Associated Press, 221 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 300, Los Angeles CA 90012, fax: 213.346.0200.

Gay men on the Bus

Get on the Bus, the new Spike Lee film about 20 African-American men who charter a bus to go to the Million Man March, includes two gay characters who are portrayed realistically and with dignity.

The movie starts with one of the gay men, Randall, confronting the other (Kyle) about why he wants to end their relationship. When Kyle moves to a different

seat, Randall asks him across the bus if he doesn't love him anymore because he's afraid to come out, effectively outing them to the rest of the bus. A litany of homophobic remarks follow, though several of the other people recognize that the homophobia is the problem, not the two gay men.

Throughout the movie there are several dialogues about gay identity, differing attitudes towards women and homophobia. Kyle becomes gradually more assertive about being gay throughout the film, and after a series of confrontations, comes out victorious in a fistfight with Skip, the loudest homophobe.

More importantly, through resolving his own issues, he comes to a healthy closure with Randall, saying, "I am as gay as the night is long, but I also know I don't want to be your lover anymore. I want to be your friend." He and Randall hold hands, and Kyle kisses his hands in an affectionate moment.

Please let Columbia Pictures know that this more gay-inclusive and gay-positive Spike Lee film shows the true diversity within the African-American community, and brings an even more profound message to the film.

Contact: Fred Bernstein, President, Columbia Pictures, 10202 West Washington Blvd., Culver City, CA 90232-3195, e-mail: callback@mis20.msnail.spe.son.y.com ▼

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GLAA Member

National lesbian, gay domestic violence statistics revealed.

by Jim Provenzano

The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs released statistics on lesbian and gay domestic violence Tuesday, October 22, and the news isn't great.

Based on studies conducted in 1995, 25 to 33 percent of same sex couples experienced domestic violence. "When people think of violence against us, they think of anti-gay hate crimes," said Bea Hanson of New York City's Anti-Violence Project. "The unacknowledged truth is that we are more likely to be injured by a lover than a stranger."

Of 1,566 reported cases, the most incidents were documented in New York City (454), followed by San Francisco (347), San Diego (330), Minneapolis (243), Chicago (129), and Columbus (63). The basis for using these cities was that each has a NCAVP member organization. With less than one percent of the nation's population residing in areas that are served by queer anti-violence groups, they estimated even more incidents in other areas which went unreported.

"This is the first attempt ever to document incidents of same-sex battering nationally," said Jerri Lynn Fields of Horizons' Anti-Violence Project in Chicago. "We know the actual magnitude of the problem is much greater, since most domestic violence in our communities goes unreported."

Several of these participating anti-violence groups have already begun to develop domestic violence services for LGBT clients. Constance Potter of the Gay and Lesbian Community Action Council in Minneapolis said, "The time has come for us to confront domestic violence as bravely as we have hate violence."

Bay Area statistics

On a local level, Community United Against Violence, which documented 347 cases of domestic violence in 1995, also worked with the Asian Women's Shelter, the San Francisco Network for Battered Lesbian and Bisexual Women, and WOMAN, Inc.

According to information released by CUAV, violence knows no gender. Domestic violence advocates contend that partner abuse matches heterosexual couples in its forms, frequency, and severity.

"The only significant difference is that we are less likely to find appropriate assistance and are more likely to encounter institutionalized homophobia," said Cristy Chung, spokesperson for the Asian Women's Shelter. Chung is also a survivor of lesbian battering.

Unfortunately, Chung is one of few people willing to come out about her experience, let alone report it. So many people are afraid of retribution from their partners, and hostility from police and other agencies. Their fears may be justified.

"Very few cases have entered the criminal justice system," admitted Susan Breall, Managing Attorney for the San Francisco District Attorney's Domestic Violence Unit.

Lesbian police officer Dolly Casazza, who works in the Do-

mestic Violence Investigations Unit, concurs. "I think there is significant under-reporting, because in addition to the obvious embarrassment, you have to come out to the police." With helpful officers

responding to these issues, and posters and brochures with a queer focus are in the works.

One successful example of the criminal justice system working is in the case of David Carter, who

"The unacknowledged truth is we are more likely to be injured by a lover than a stranger."

like Casazza, hopefully, though, things may change.

Changes at Hallinan's

Among the changes are those instituted by District Attorney Terrence Hallinan's office. The D.A.'s office is hiring a Victim Advocate who will work specifically with same-sex domestic violence victims. Police officers are being further trained in detecting and

alleges that he ended his relationship of over a year with Hunter Lee Mills after Mills struck him in the face while he was driving, nearly causing him to crash the vehicle. Following the break-up, Carter said that Mills stalked him, vandalized his property, made threatening phone calls, and physically assaulted him.

Mills was arrested, pled guilty to one of the 12 felonies with

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(415) 751-7110 (business)

Community United Against Violence

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(415) 777-5500 (business)

District Attorney's Office, Family Violence Project

(415) 777-7550

Men Overcoming Violence

(415) 777-4496

SF Network for Battered Lesbian & Bisexual Women

(415) 281-0276

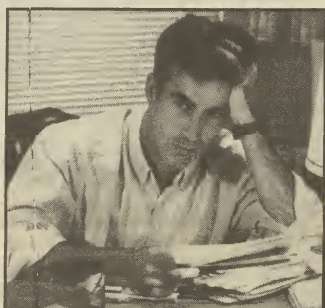
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which he was charged, and was sentenced to six months in County Jail plus one year in a residential treatment facility and three years probation.

"While it is often believed the

judicial system is rife with dysfunction, it served me well in this situation," Mills said gratefully. "The advocacy services I received from CUAV helped to grease the wheels of justice." ▼



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HIV Council faces \$4-5 million less for 1997-98 CARE funding

Prioritization process to start next month

by Cynthia Laird

The Mayor's HIV Health Services Planning Council reviewed current funding amounts at their meeting Monday, October 21 as part of their preparation for the upcoming prioritization process, when the council will determine funding for AIDS services but will have between four and five million dollars less to work with.

Next month the council will begin prioritizing an estimated \$33 million in federal Ryan White CARE funds for 1997-98. The budget for 1996-97 CARE funds was \$37,444,553. The money was allocated in 17 different service categories by the council last year. An additional two categories funded San Mateo and Marin counties, which along with San Francisco make up the eligible metropolitan area (EMA).

At the meeting, some council members expressed their thoughts on the decrease in funds and said they needed more specific information about what services were provided in the general service categories.

"I don't have enough understanding of what's in these categories," said council member William Carter. "We need to look for overlap and integration and try to get out of 'cut or not cut [services].'"

The service categories as they were prioritized last year include: ambulatory/outpatient medical care, housing, food, mental health/counseling, substance abuse, home healthcare, residential hospice care, dental, case management, day or respite care, buddy/companion, transportation, systemwide, client advocacy, rehabilitation, adoption/foster care, and translation.

Within each of those categories are various sub-categories that list examples of services.

"My frustration last year was not having detail," said council member Tom Calvanese, "and if we're going to shave and cut off the pie, we'd better know what we're cutting."

Dr. Gene Copello, chief of health services and prevention for the AIDS Office, explained that the client satisfaction and needs assessment survey will be distributed

at the October 28 council meeting, and that will also aid the council in its prioritization process. Additionally, new and emerging medical therapies will also be discussed.

Two decisions

Mary Jane Wood, who serves as San Mateo County's representative on the council and who has been on the council since it was formed in 1990, told the group that there are two other decisions the council has historically made regarding funding prioritization.

"Two decisions we've made in the past have been the percentage of money going to the Department of Public Health, and that's usually in the area of primary medical care, and the other decision is the percentage of money that goes to minority-based organizations," Wood said. "Those have been decisions we've made historically, and we need to see if we're going to live by that."

During the planning process for prioritization that began in August, Copello told the council members they are being presented with a major opportunity to reassess the system of care, where to

place emphasis along the continuum of care, and the definition of core services to be funded in the three-county EMA.

Additionally, Copello has pointed out that new medical therapies must be taken into account by the council as it plans for the year ahead and beyond. The implications for service delivery of a growing population of longer-term survivors cannot be underestimated, he said, although he added the issue needs to be addressed cautiously as there is much that is not known about new therapies.

Also at Monday's meeting, the council heard about the needs of people who are dually and triply diagnosed, such as those who have HIV/AIDS along with substance abuse or mental health diagnoses.

David Bangsberg, with the Center for AIDS Prevention and San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH), has been studying AIDS and the homeless. He talked about the difficult questions that arise when dealing with this population. As an example, he discussed protease inhibitors and how to get

page 30 ►

Mayor appoints new HIV council members, majority of 35-member body is retained

by Cynthia Laird

The Mayor's HIV Health Services Planning Council has seven new members who were appointed by Mayor Willie Brown on September 30. The majority of the 35-member council, which prioritizes spending of Ryan White Care funds in San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin counties, was retained by the mayor, who last month requested all members reapply for their positions.

Dean Goodwin, Brown's liaison to the gay community, also pointed out the council has its first transgender person, Marianna Balquiedra. She was recently hired as the executive director of the Filipino Task Force on AIDS (FTFA).

Other new council members are: Alissa Riker, of the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice; Dr. Virginia Cafaro, of the Conant Medical Group; Bart Casimir, the HIV program administrator for the clinic operated by the American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine; Mark Serpas, who along with Casimir represents people living with HIV/AIDS on the council; and Diane Jones, the former head nurse of Ward 5A, the original AIDS ward at San Francisco General Hospital.

Carol Gong was also named to the council. She represents a mandated seat for MediCal.

Members not reappointed to the council were: Linford Gayle, Bill Hershon, Dr. Gifford Leung, and Bob Nelson.

Planning council members are mandated to represent many areas, including individuals with HIV/AIDS, healthcare providers, community-based organizations serving affected populations, mental health and substance abuse providers, the incarcerated, the homeless, the physically disabled, housing, and local public health agencies.

The council is expected to begin prioritizing spending next month for 1997-98, as the new council members are still learning the ropes. Until then, the council will hear about current services it funds, client satisfaction with services, and the results of a needs assessment study.

Co-chairs of the planning council have asked more experienced members to serve as mentors to the new appointees as they learn the role of the planning council and its responsibility in setting spending priorities. ▼

Status shaky



National Democratic Party Chair Don Fowler (at head of table on right) and staff met last week with several representatives of Bay Area gay and lesbian political groups to discuss the status of President Clinton's relationship with the larger gay community. The sometimes tense meeting was held at the law offices of Morrison and Foerster in downtown SF.

Gregory H. Fleischer

Leal wants substance abuse treatment on demand next year

Program budget to be topic at hearing

by Cynthia Laird

The recent release of statistics by the San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) showing an alarming rise in the use of methamphetamine, cocaine, and other stimulants, particularly affecting young gay men and women with children, has led Supervisor Susan Leal to call for the city to provide substance abuse treatment on demand and fully fund the program in the 1997-98 fiscal year.

At the board's October 15 meeting, Leal introduced a resolution endorsing the goal of substance abuse treatment on demand for indigent persons, and has directed the DPH to work out funding for the program in the next budget, which would be for the 1997-98 fiscal year.

The resolution and its implementation will be discussed at a hearing of the board's Health, Public Safety, and Environment Committee on Thursday, November 7, Leal said.

"If you have a problem with drugs or alcohol and you ask the city for help, you shouldn't have to wait 90 days or more," Leal said.

Drug, HIV link

San Francisco has seen a recent rise in the level of methamphetamine abuse in young gay men, a trend that alarms AIDS professionals because of the close link between drug abuse and HIV transmission, Leal noted.

Additionally, alcohol and heroin abuse continue to be a serious health problem in the city, disproportionately affecting lower income individuals, women, and people of color, the supervisor stated.

The current level of substance abuse treatment services in the city is insufficient to meet the demand, requiring drug abusers who are seeking assistance to wait weeks and sometimes months for an appropriate treatment placement, according to Leal.

"If we want to have an impact on homelessness, if we want to re-

duce crime and our jail population, if we want to get women off drugs and get children out of foster care, then we will make a real commitment to substance abuse treatment by providing for treatment on demand," Leal said.

In addition to concerns about substance abuse among young gay men, Leal said that pregnant women and their unborn children are also particularly susceptible to abuse problems.

Leal acknowledged that providing treatment on demand for substance abusers will be expensive, and could cost as much as \$15 to \$20 million a year to increase treatment capacity in various programs. At next month's hearing, Leal wants specific answers from DPH regarding how much it will cost, and not generalizations.

Referrals ...to nowhere

Through the federally funded "target cities," San Francisco has developed a sophisticated system for drug treatment referrals and coordinated case management. Unfortunately, Leal stated in the resolution, the city lacks sufficient funds to achieve treatment capacity and provide substance abuse treatment on demand for indigent San Francisco residents.

As a result, many city and county departments are forced to deal with problems associated with substance abuse. Drug and alcohol abuse have a significant impact on the Department of Social Services, the police and sheriff's departments, the court system, and the public health system.

According to figures released by the DPH, San Francisco has the highest ratio of drug-related emergency room visits, compared to any other major U.S. metropolitan area.

Leal said the effects of drug and alcohol abuse in the city cost taxpayers in many different ways because of the wide range of services that are affected. For example, DPH figures from 1992 show that nearly five infants everyday, or 11 percent of all births, were born exposed to alcohol or drugs.

Every three days a newborn entered foster care directly from a nursery due to untreated drug use of their mothers.

Since there is no treatment on demand program now, substance abusing mothers are at an especially high risk of losing their children in the dependency system when they are forced to wait for substance abuse treatment. This usually results in children being placed with a non-parent.

Other DPH statistics are equally alarming, Leal said. Approximately 80 percent of the city's homeless population lives with substance abuse problems, and in 1995, 44 percent of all homeless deaths were directly related to drugs or alcohol.

In 1994-95, 41 percent of all firearm-related deaths in the city involved substance abuse. In 1994, drugs were the leading reason for juvenile arrests, accounting for 14 percent of all juvenile crime.

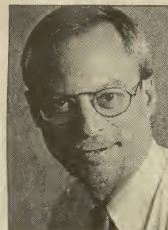
DPH figures also show that 70 percent of people incarcerated in San Francisco are there for substance abuse-related crimes. About half of all reported domestic violence cases in the city involved drugs or alcohol. ▼

The Board of Supervisors committee hearing on Nov. 7 starts at 1 p.m. in the committee room at City Hall, 401 Van Ness Avenue.

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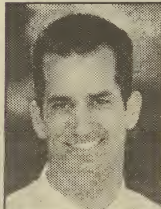
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Momentum builds for gay Alameda city council candidate

Alves campaign to host reception Friday

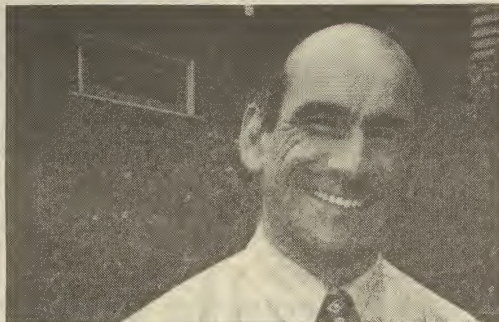
by Cynthia Laird

Greg Alves, the openly gay candidate running for a seat on the Alameda City Council, said he feels momentum building for his campaign and believes he may be on the verge of

becoming the island city's first openly gay city official. Alves is having a "Champaign Reception" this Friday, October 25 in Alameda, and invites supporters and others interested in his campaign to attend.

That Alves is even running for city council is seen by some Alamedans as a turnaround that's taken place in the city, which in 1995 refused to approve a proclamation designating June as Gay Pride Month. This year, the council adopted a resolution in support of Mayor Ralph Appenzato's proclamation recognizing the city's gay and lesbian community.

Angry and frustrated after the city council's rejection of the resolution in 1995, several gays and lesbians joined to form Out on the Island (OOTI), a gay rights



Greg Alves

group. Alves was one of the original members of OOTI's executive board. In August he resigned that position in order not to have any perceived conflicts in his campaign for city council.

Alves is one of ten candidates vying for three seats on the council. Incumbent Al DeWitt is seeking reelection, Lil Americh cannot run again because of term limits, and Charles Mannix resigned. The candidate receiving the third highest number of votes will fill Mannix's unexpired term, said a spokeswoman for the Alameda City Clerk's office.

At its endorsement meeting on October 14, OOTI members voted to endorse Alves and three other council candidates, two of whom, Harry Hartman and Tony Daysog, are also OOTI members, although they are straight. The other candidate who received OOTI's endorsement is John Abrate.

Issues, not orientation

Francis Rush, who is working on Alves's campaign, said that when Alves talks with voters around the city, they don't ask him about his sexual orientation, but are instead interested in his stands on issues such as the base conversion of the Alameda Naval Air Station, concerns about the expansion of the Oakland International Airport, and the city's need for a new library.

"I'm delighted at how friendly and interested the voters are in my candidacy, whatever their party affiliation," Alves said.

He has received a broad range of support from straight officials, including endorsements from Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan, former Supervisor Don Perata, City Council member Karin Lucas, and Library 2000, the group dedicated to construction of a new library in Alameda. Lucas, who appointed Alves as her alternate on the Alameda Reuse and Redevelopment Authority (ARRA), was one of the first people to encourage him to run for city council.

What this support says to him is that homophobic letters to local newspapers, and comments made at past council meetings regarding the proclamation issue are not at all representative of the community as a whole.

Alves said he's running as a candidate representing all Alamedans. However, he added he's unequivocal in his support of the city's gay/lesbian proclamation, and advocates civil rights for

all, including domestic partner benefits and same-sex marriages. His positions on those issues have not resulted in hostility from the Alameda electorate, Rush noted.

Naval meditations

Future development of the naval base is a major issue in the city council race. Alves said he initially bothered people on the Base Reuse Advisory Group (BRAG), a citizens panel, when he spoke of his plan for a promenade along the inner harbor with a grand hotel and convention center. The area could be developed into a regional attraction with shops, waterfront parks, and restaurants, all with stunning views of San Francisco and the Bay, Alves explained. Most importantly, the ARRA must market this idea to developers and show them Alameda wants them there, he said.

Alves has been employed in real estate development and management since 1979 and currently works for Urban Pacific Properties in San Francisco.

As a result of concerns expressed to Alves by Alameda voters, his campaign is conducting a poll for residents to air their opinions on the proposed expansion of the Oakland Airport. Rush said campaign volunteers have already started delivering an "Airport Expansion Questionnaire" to voters. Campaign workers hope to have results of the informal poll compiled by October 31. Port of Oakland officials have also indicated they're interested in the poll results, which Alves said he'll make public.

"I know that many Alamedans who care about this issue may not get a chance to attend these forums, which is why I wanted to offer the voters a convenient way to let the Port officials know what they think," Alves said.

The effect of the broad support shown for Alves has led to a feeling of "unstoppable momentum" among the large and diverse base of campaign volunteers, Rush said. Sustaining this momentum, as well as raising money for Alves's campaign, is the goal of Friday's reception. ▼

The "Champaign Reception" starts at 5:30 p.m. at the Italian-American Club, 2712 Encinal Avenue, in Alameda. Tickets are \$20 per person and include a chance to win door prizes. To purchase tickets or for more information, call (510) 433-7929.

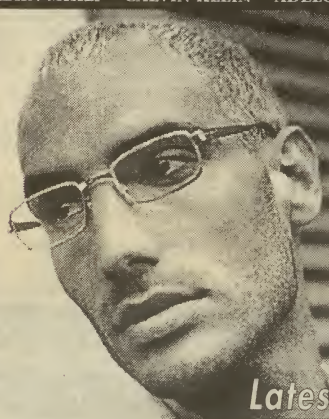
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Star of India comes to Milpitas with AIDS message

by Sandip Roy

While the XI International Conference on AIDS brought encouraging news about advances in drugs, the facts coming out of India were chilling. Dr. Peter Piot of the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS had just estimated that with 3 million infected people, India had emerged as the country with the largest number of HIV infections. The India Health Or-

ganization warned that we could be looking at apocalyptic figures like a death toll of 6,000-12,500 a day in four years.

This in a country where even a few years ago the health minister was claiming that there was no AIDS problem because Indians have different moral standards. It is this kind of abysmal ignorance that activists are trying desperately to dispel, and now they have the help of India's most acclaimed actress, Shabana Azmi.

Azmi, an internationally

renowned award-winning actress who is best known to western audiences for her roles in *Madame Souza* and *City of Joy*, just completed a whirlwind tour through the United States raising funds for HIV/AIDS awareness in India under the aegis of the American Federation of Muslims from India.

Azmi told an audience in Milpitas on Friday, October 18 that the standard stock response of the government has been denial. She accused the government of a lackadaisical approach to AIDS because "AIDS doesn't bring votes."

Because of ignorance, she alleged, people with AIDS "have been tied up in chains and thrown into dungeons like they used to with leprosy patients." She recollected that after making a three-minute public service film that showed her hugging a young girl with AIDS, people asked her if she wasn't afraid to touch the girl.

Now Azmi said many more film stars are making awareness films like that to educate the public.

She said it was pointless to treat AIDS in isolation. For example, just giving condoms to commercial sex workers did not achieve anything because "these women are not in control of their own lives."

"Their lives are being controlled by the madams of the brothel and the pimps who will

not give them these condoms because clients will prefer to go to somebody who does not insist on condoms, not realizing thereby that they are giving the infection to the sex worker who gives it to many other men who go back to the villages and give it to their wives, and the cycle goes on and on."

So Azmi feels the answer is a massive AIDS awareness campaign that confronts a lot of traditional taboos and social mores head-on. She claimed that now Indians are talking about safe sex in school, much to the horror of many conservatives. But Azmi praised the efforts of non-governmental organizations that have mobilized public opinion into talking about these issues.

But awareness campaigns need money, and the need was growing more desperate every day because



Shabana Azmi in Milpitas.

time was running out.

"The word in Chinese for crisis is also the word for opportunity," Azmi said in Milpitas. "We should turn this crisis into an opportunity to make a commitment to show that we care. Please get involved with your time. Please get involved with your energy. Please get involved with your money. Do so now." ▼

State planning group honors Bay Area hospice

by I.A. Kisselman

When the City of Belmont opened its Belmont House hospice for low-income people with AIDS in August of 1995, it was the culmination of an unprecedented marriage of private work and public moneys, all being used in harmony to great effect.

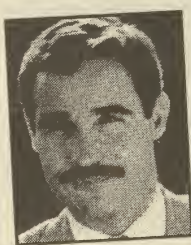
A public-private partnership of the Belmont Redevelopment Agency, San Mateo County; Mercy Charities Housing of California; and Catholic Charities, the hospice was literally built with community support. Donations ranging from landscaping to artwork, furnishings, and household items came from over 50 individuals and organizations - as well as time and money.

It seems Belmont residents and Belmont House residents aren't the only ones who are impressed with the hospice. The California Chapter of the American Planning Association (CCAPA) gave the facility an award for outstanding community planning at CCAPA's annual conference in Palm Springs this month.

CCAPA is a public interest and research organization representing over 4,500 planning professionals, elected and appointed officials and concerned citizens involved in urban, rural and regional planning issues. Its annual awards program recognizes outstanding achievements in the field of planning.

The Belmont House partnership received CCAPA's Award of Merit for Advocacy Planning, as what spokesperson Ron Gray called "a wonderful example of what government and community can accomplish together on behalf of those in need." ▼

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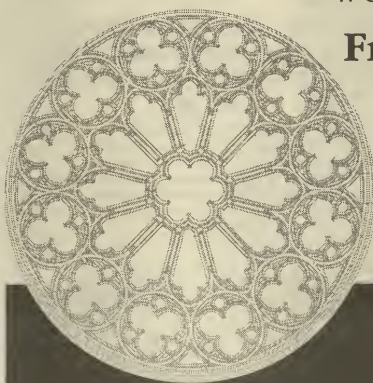
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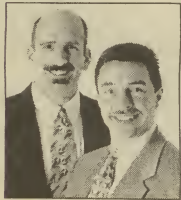
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Davies Medical Center staff to do Trick or Treat for AIDS

Founder in hospital; volunteers needed

by Cynthia Laird

Trick or Treat for AIDS, a program that for the last two years has been organized by city resident Mike Mahoney to bring a little cheer to hospitalized AIDS patients, will be done this year by staff at Davies Medical Center. Mahoney is very sick and in the hospital, according to Nancy Mattingly, public relations director for Davies Medical Center.

She said hospital staff had

heard of Mahoney's involvement in the event and decided to do it as a gesture of appreciation for his past efforts. Mattingly said Trick or Treat for AIDS will take place on Halloween afternoon, although a definite time has not yet been determined. She said people should call her to get that information.

Since the project is being organized on short notice, Mattingly said volunteers, candy, and Trick or Treat bags are needed. People who

thanks to Davies staff.

"His social worker said he was excited about the fact that we're doing this," Mattingly added. "We're hoping Mike will make it to Halloween."

Mahoney has been hospitalized for over a month, and it was initially thought there would not be a Trick or Treat for AIDS this year.

According to Mattingly, when the hospital received a call from a



Halloween high jinks: Mike Mahoney preparing for All Hallows Eve at SF hospitals' AIDS wards in 1994.

want to help pass out the treats can wear costumes, just as they did when Mahoney ran the event, she added. All candy or other food items must be individually wrapped. Any other items that are donated for patients must be new.

"The hospital decided to pick up Trick or Treat for AIDS this year," Mattingly told the B.A.R. "We're trying to gather materials to distribute to AIDS patients at Davies and other hospice programs."

Mattingly said that Mahoney is conscious and expressed his

potential donor inquiring about Trick or Treat for AIDS, the staff decided to step in.

"This would have been his third effort at doing it, and we decided, 'We'll do it for you,'" Mattingly said.

In previous years, Mahoney rallied the support of local businesses and individuals who donated candy, personal items, and clothing, which were distributed by costumed volunteers. According to a flyer Mahoney distributed

next page ►

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Hookers' Ball '96: a real whorershow

by Cynthia Laird

Halloween is almost here again, heralding that time of year when the city crawls with fiendish freaks and hell-bent hedonists and the Bay Area gets its ya-yas out in the grandest of styles. It's also time for the 1996 edition of the (usually) annual Hookers' Ball, presented by supervisory candidate Margo St. James, to return to San Francisco this Saturday, October 26.

As in past years, the event benefits Call Off Your Old Tired Ethics (COYOTE), a sex workers' organization St. James founded in the 1970s.

"I started the Hookers' Ball in 1974, and it grew to 20,000 people," St. James told the B.A.R. "That was too big, so we're keeping it to between 2,500 and 3,000 people."

"Sensible Salaciousness" is the theme for this year's event, for which organizers promise a maze of erotic high jinks and old-time romantic debauchery throughout Maritime Hall, located at 450 Harrison Street.

The big ball will get rolling at 8:30 p.m., preceded by a 7 p.m. VIP party. The main show in the auditorium will feature the swamp beat boogie sounds of the Sun Dogs; blues diva Candye Kane; exotic fire dancers Crimson Rose and Will Roger of "Burning Man"; the infamous Ethel Merman Memorial Choir; a fetish fashion show; a costume contest; and an amateur strip contest.

There's plenty of other entertainment planned for the event. There will be the debut of the Blues Drifters Blues Jam, an all-star blues group showcasing the musicianship of Pete Sears (of Hot Tuna, Jefferson Starship, and Rod Stewart fame) on piano; Rich Kirch (of John Lee Hooker's band) on lead guitar; Davey Pattison (of Robin Trower fame) on rhythm guitar and vocals; Ken Embray (of Jerry Lee Lewis fame) on bass; and Ernest Carter (of Bruce Springsteen fame) on drums.

Wandering downstairs, guests will find an exhibit hall featuring a spanking booth, sex toys, interactive erotica via CD-ROM, body painting and piercing, permanent and temporary tattoos, leather accessories, Neoprene accessories, corsets, and more.

The truly adventurous will discover the Barbary Coast Bar, featuring a salty blues combo and a bevy of Victorian-era hookers to carouse with. No party like this is complete without the Dungeon, a glass-enclosed room where hosts will entertain guests' sexual fantasies of choice in front of the



Supe candidate Margo St. James

voyeurs looking through the glass.

St. James has been an offbeat fixture on the local scene for many years and was a renowned figure during North Beach's beat heyday.

Besides running for office, St. James is a member of the city's Task Force on Prostitution, which

released its final report in August. Among other recommendations, it called for abolishing all laws specifically relating to prostitution.

She said she revived the Hookers' Ball in 1995 after a 17-year hiatus, a time she spent "pursuing related causes and life in Paris."

She pointed out that prostitutes played a role in California's history, with some of the first women arriving here working as hookers.

"Instead of seeing prostitution as a segment of society you can abolish, it's really a slice of life," St. James said. "I think we have to bring them back into perspective." ▼

The Hookers' Ball tickets are \$45 per person, or \$75 for the VIP party, and are available at all BASS ticket outlets or by calling (510) 762-BASS. For more information, call the Hookers' Ball hotline at (415) 974-9306.

Maid in Hell



The winsome and demure Wreckettes (l to r), Didi May, Vanessa Schiffer and Trina Martina, were a hit at the Oct. 19

Transgender Fair at SF's Pier 50. The fair featured electrolysis and wig booths, plus some really big pumps, not to mention medical personnel on hand to talk to pre-op transsexuals and other interested parties.

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Trick or treat

◀ previous page

before being hospitalized, staff at Davies Medical Center had helped sponsor past Trick or Treat for AIDS events. ▼

If you're interested in volunteering for Trick or Treat for AIDS, call Mattingly at (415) 565-6362. Candy, Halloween bags, and other items can be dropped off at Davies Medical Center, located at Castro and Duboce.

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Mondelli

◀ page 1

eyes had a "vacant, hollow look," which he knew was a tell-tale sign the gay psychiatrist was high on speed.

"He looked like a raccoon. I'd seen that before when he was under the influence of speed. He looked frazzled, as if he'd been up all night," Mondelli said.

'I asked why'

Mondelli told the court Freeman surprised him by saying Mondelli looked tired, and asking if he wanted a massage.

Although Mondelli testified that he and the psychiatrist had been having a sexual relationship and sharing drugs on forged and illegal prescriptions for several months, the offer of a massage from Freeman "was a first."

"He told me to take off my clothes and I did that. I took everything off, and he took everything off except for his underwear and socks," Mondelli testified.

"He told me to lie down on the air mattress. He took my arms and spread them out to the side. He sat on the small of my back and gave me a cursory massage on my shoulders."

Mondelli, who assumed that the massage might be a prelude to a sexual encounter, heard the rustle of a paper bag and told the court that "he looked over to his right shoulder" — to see Freeman's hands clapping a hand ax high above his head.

"He brought the ax down on the back of my head," a tearful Mondelli said.

Although the force of the blow cut the back of his head and knocked him almost senseless, Mondelli said he briefly managed to get free.

"I pushed him off of me and held the back of my head. I could feel the blood just running down my back. I asked why," Mondelli said.

'Again and again'

Mondelli then testified that Freeman put the ax down, reached into his coat, and pulled out a hunting knife he had bought at the Russian River during a trip with Mondelli.

"He took it and he held it up — like it was a commercial — to the side of his face. And then he smiled at me like, 'Remember this?' He started to get up and

come towards me, and held the knife in his fist over his head, and he stabbed me and he did it again and again and again," Mondelli cried.

Mondelli told the court that he screamed for someone to call 911, and that Freeman was trying to kill him — but that Freeman kept stabbing him and trying to push him into the bathroom, and that he kept slipping from the blood as he was trying to get away.

At one point during the attack, Mondelli testified that when he was near the front door of the studio, "a man with gray hair"

trapped in the cardboard box.

'You're ruining me'

In harrowing testimony, Mondelli said that Freeman then moved close to him and calmly sat down as if to briefly rest and collect himself, but only for a moment.

"He started to stab me in the side again and again," Mondelli said. "Then he started sticking the knife in the other side. I tried to get up out of the box, but he stabbed my leg," Mondelli said.

The painful stabs were of such intensity that Freeman made feral, grunting sounds as he jabbed the



Mario Mondelli

knocked.

"I noticed that I was naked for the first time, and completely red from head to toe. He said, 'Oh God, are you all right?' I said, 'Please call 911,'" Mondelli testified.

But, before he could flee, Freeman slammed the door shut, locked it, and hit Mondelli in the chest with such force that he fell to the ground near a telephone — which Freeman then ripped out of the wall.

"I got to my feet again but fell backwards. I fell into an open box and I couldn't move," Mondelli said.

Freeman took a minute to calm himself and then sat down in front of Mondelli, who was

knife into his flesh, Mondelli testified. Freeman also yelled, "You're ruining me, you're ruining me," as he stabbed.

Mondelli said he finally managed to grab hold of the knife in Freeman's hands, and that Freeman only let go of it when police broke the door to the apartment open and entered the room.

"I was not going to let go. I thought that if he stabbed me again, I'm going to die," he said.

Mondelli was holding onto the knife when police arrived, and said that he was ordered to drop his weapon by police who did not fully comprehend the situation.

Although Freeman was initially arrested, he was quickly released

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COMMUNITY NEWS

because he claimed self-defense, and Mondelli, who initially was expected to die, was not able to communicate with investigators.

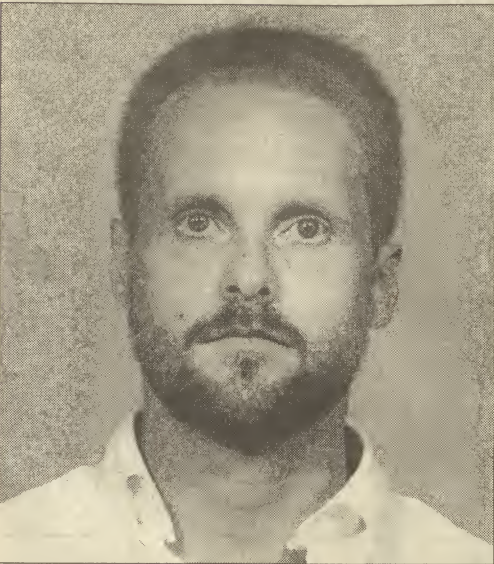
After Mondelli regained consciousness and told investigators what had happened, Freeman was re-booked on attempted murder and felony prescription charges.

Freeman's bail was set at \$75,000 following his 1995 surrender, a sum that Municipal Court Judge Donna Little said was "too low," but declined to raise because of a previous agreement between defense and prosecution attorneys. She rejected suggestions

that Freeman had terminated Mondelli's treatment with his out-patient physician.

"He said that he believed that gay men couldn't really have a woman for a psychiatrist, there was too much to explain. He called her and terminated my visits with her," he said.

After allegedly replacing Mondelli's psychiatrist with himself, Freeman reportedly arranged for Mondelli, who had been placed in a short-term mental health treatment facility, to come to his private residence for weekly therapy sessions.



Dr. Dean Freeman

by Assistant District Attorney Chuck Haines that appropriate bail would be \$1 million.

After the July 1994 attack, Mondelli was taken to San Francisco General Hospital, where he was unconscious and on life support systems for two and a half months after the attack. He was later transferred to another facility, where he spent approximately a month and a half.

Mondelli suffered permanent injuries from Freeman's attack, including loss of peripheral vision to his left eye, from the hand ax blow to his head; hernias, as a result of emergency surgery; and has had extensive plastic surgery on the 21 ax and knife wounds.

Calling Dr. Norman Bates

During his first harrowing testimony about the July 25, 1994 attack by Freeman that nearly killed him, Mondelli told the court that he first met Freeman while he was an in-patient psychiatric patient at San Francisco General Hospital in February 1994.

"My life was on a definite downward swing. I was depressed. I'd lost my job and my apartment. I had lost my place to live. I didn't have enough money," Mondelli said.

Mondelli was also battling a long-term methamphetamine drug abuse problem. He was being treated by a psychiatrist, but didn't feel he could reach her in an acute psychiatric emergency, so he called a suicide prevention hotline and was referred to San Francisco General Hospital for immediate assistance.

"I was depressed. I didn't know then that depression was an illness," he said.

Under direct examination by Assistant District Attorney Chuck Haines, Mondelli testified that Freeman was his main psychiatrist during his nearly two-week stay on the in-patient unit, and

"They were at his house at first, but then Dean told me that his live-in lover objected to my presence," Mondelli said. He also testified that Freeman later said — without explanation — that San Francisco General Hospital wasn't an appropriate place for the sessions, either. After that, he said, they met a few times in South of Market and Castro Street restaurants, and once at the Badlands, a well-known Castro Street bar.

Mondelli also testified that the pair once met at Grand Central Hot Tubs, a Market Street spa, at Freeman's suggestion, and that while they were in the private room Freeman initiated sexual contact.

After having sex with Freeman, Mondelli said he understood that the relationship between them had "clearly changed" into something more than psychiatrist and patient, and they began having sexual relations on a "continual and regular basis."

It is a misdemeanor in California for a physician to have a sexual relationship with a patient in California, and a physician convicted of such crimes can face the revocation of his or her license.

Sexual abuse experts also say that such psychiatrist-patient relationships are a serious abuse of power because of the emotional vulnerability of a patient.

Dr. Dean & Mr. De Lucca

Shortly after Freeman initiated the sex acts at the hot tubs, Mondelli testified, he was invited to go on an April 1994 trip to the Russian River with him.

The sex and the invitation were followed with a professional prescription by Freeman for a powerful anti-anxiety drug called Lorazepam, also known as Ativan. "The agreement was that Dean would write a prescription and that I would split the medication with him," Mondelli said.

The couple went to "The Woods," a Guerneville, California resort, but not until Freeman gave him additional money to purchase three-quarters of a gram of methamphetamine.

"I snorted this, he injected it orally," Mondelli testified.

According to Mondelli's testimony, Freeman constantly feared professional exposure over the sexual and substance abuse and insisted that it be kept "a secret," despite Mondelli's frequent reassurances that the relationship was consensual.

Mondelli testified that Freeman justified the legal and ethical violations by claiming that he and Mondelli were brilliant "supermen to whom those rules did not apply."

Mondelli also testified that Freeman justified the substance abuse and prescription frauds as a search for "the perfect legal form of speed."

But, Mondelli said, Freeman was also concerned about repercussions from state and federal oversight bodies.

"He'd been writing me too many prescriptions, and didn't want them to get too suspicious," Mondelli said — so on one occasion, as the couple drove by a local market, they devised the name "Anthony De Lucca," and Mondelli eventually found a pharmacy that would fill the prescription for the generic Dexedrine.

"We took that to three different drugstores until I found one that would fill it," Mondelli said.

When Mondelli moved from a Polk Street residential hotel to a studio apartment on Ivy Street, Freeman kept him in a steady supply of drugs — and sometimes cash. The drugs would cost about "\$300 a shot, once or twice a week," Mondelli testified.

"Dean would pick me up and we'd stop at the ATM to pick up cash, and we would then drive to my drug dealer's house," he said.

'Drugs and cash advances'

Mondelli told the court that "a very upset and agitated" Freeman called him July 24, 1994, complaining about his American Express credit card bill. The alleged assault happened the next day.

"I pointed out to him that his expenses were higher and that he'd been spending more on drugs and cash advances," Mondelli said.

He told the court that he told Freeman during the phone call that "it wasn't like he had nothing to show for it."

Mondelli testified that Freeman bought him a television, a lamp, and some other incidental kitchen and household items to help furnish the small Ivy Street studio.

In a brief cross examination by defense attorney Jim Collins, Mondelli acknowledged that Freeman had once had him involuntarily committed to SFGH for causing a "disturbance" at Freeman's house.

Also testifying in the preliminary hearing was Noelle Holloway, an investigator with the California Medical Board. Holloway testified that Freeman's prescription abuses violated standard medical practice that prohibits prescribing stimulant drugs to someone with a substance abuse problem, and other laws governing fraudulent prescribing of drugs.

A civil case against Freeman, the City and County of San Francisco, and the University of California was settled out of court for a confidential sum.

If convicted of the charges, Freeman faces life imprisonment. ▽

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Supreme Court rejects 'don't ask, don't tell' case

by Michael Kirkland

In the first such case to reach the justices, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to review a challenge to the military's "don't ask, don't tell" restrictions on homosexuals Monday, October 21.

However, the rejection, made without comment in a one-line order, does not preclude the Supreme Court from taking up the issue in any of the subsequent cases that are sure to follow.

The case of former Navy Lieutenant Paul Thomasson was one of several moving through the federal courts around the country, but it drew considerable attention because it followed the landmark ruling over Colorado's Amendment 2 last term, in which the justices said government could not discriminate politically against gays and lesbians.

The Navy officer unsuccessfully tried to pit that ruling against the Supreme Court's long-standing reluctance to interfere with the workings of the military.

Roots

The roots of the case are in the early days of the administration, when President Clinton, Senator Sam Nunn from the state of Georgia, and the Pentagon reached a compromise on the president's stated aim of ending discrimination against homosex-

uals in the military.

The compromise was codified in the National Defense Authorization Act in 1993 with the "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

"Don't ask" refers to a general ban against commanders asking a servicemember whether he or she is homosexual. "Don't tell" refers to a general prohibition against someone telling fellow service-members or anyone else that he or she is gay.

Under the act, homosexual orientation itself is not a bar to serving in uniform. However, a servicemember who says that he or she is homosexual can avoid discharge only if the servicemember can show there is no "propensity" to commit a homosexual act.

The law does not define "propensity," but defines a homosexual act as any bodily contact between two members of the same gender for sexual purposes.

A Defense Department directive later defined "propensity" as the "likelihood" of engaging in homosexual acts.

In March 1994, Thomasson delivered a letter to four Navy admirals who had praised his service, "to inform them, as a statement of principle and personal integrity, that 'I am gay,'" Thomas-

son's lawyers told the Supreme Court in his petition.

"Solely on the basis of this statement, and notwithstanding his exemplary record, the Navy commenced involuntary separation proceedings against him, and on June 15, 1995, [Thomasson] was discharged from the service," the petition said.

In 1994, Thomasson filed suit in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Virginia, asking a federal judge to block his pending discharge. The judge gave the Defense Department a summary judgment June 8, 1995, followed a week later by Thomasson's ouster.

Last April, the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the summary judgment on a 9-4 vote. Since then, however, the Supreme Court has issued its landmark decision in *Romer v. Evans*, striking down Colorado's law against communities passing laws to protect the rights of gays, lesbians, and bisexuals.

"In this case, as in *Romer*... There is a great deal of evidence that the statute was motivated by a desire to accommodate prejudice against homosexuals," Thomasson's petition told the Supreme Court, quoting the justices' 6-3 decision in the Colorado case. ▼

Court rejects California PWA's assisted suicide case

by Michael Kirkland

The Supreme Court has refused the state of California's request to speed up review of a lower-court ruling in Los Angeles that recognizes an individual's right to choose the manner of his or her own death, and the right to be assisted in suicide by a physician.

Although the refusal on Monday, October 21 means there will be no expedited review, the justices could grant ordinary review in the case, brought by an unnamed man with AIDS, this term. Nor does the action affect the court's decision earlier to hear argument on the same issues in cases out of Washington state and New York.

California law does not ban suicide and also permits an individual to require the withdrawal of life-sustaining medical equipment. But state law also bans assisted suicide.

"John Doe," a man in his 30s, was first diagnosed as HIV-positive in July 1984, and as having full-blown AIDS on January 1, 1993.

Doe was advised by his doctor "that his condition is terminal, though the exact amount of time left to him is necessarily an estimate," according to court records.

The man is also "mentally competent and aware of the nature of his diseases and likely progress," a lower court ruled.

"John Doe contends that he has seen his peers die without dignity and in horrible pain, and he does not want that fate to befall him," the court record said.

"John Doe wishes to obtain physician aid in dying."

Doe filed a complaint in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles in October 1994, claiming state law banning assisted suicide is unconstitutional.

Relying on a 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling in a Washington state case, U.S. District Judge Consuelo Marshall in Los Angeles ruled for Doe.

Marshall rejected Supreme Court precedent on challenging a state law, instead saying that there is a "similarity between the liberty interests in abortion and assisted suicide."

Applying Supreme Court precedent on challenging state restrictions to abortion, Marshall ruled that the California law banning assisted suicide violated the due process, or fair hearing, provisions of the 14th Amendment.

But Marshall stayed the ruling until it could be appealed to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals or until the Supreme Court could consider it.

The appellate court put the appeal on its October docket.

Since the case began, however, the Supreme Court has agreed to review the issue of whether someone has a constitutional right to die and whether states have the right to ban assisted suicide. The justices will hear argument later this term in the Washington state case and on a less-sweeping decision that invalidated New York's ban on assisted suicide.

With that as background, both sides in the "John Doe" Los Angeles case had asked the Supreme Court for expedited review of the California ban. ▼

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NIH freezes needle exchange study

UCSF researcher requests ethics review

by Terry Beswick

The federal National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced Thursday, October 17 that it will delay a \$2.4 million University of Alaska needle exchange study, hours after the government watchdog group Public Citizen compared the study's design to the infamous Tuskegee syphilis experiments – in which African-American men were denied antibiotic treatment for syphilis for three decades while government researchers watched them slowly suffer and die.

Needle exchanges, already operated privately in 55 locations nationwide, attempt to discourage the sharing of needles – potentially infected by HIV or hepatitis – by permitting injection drug users (IDUs) to come to a central location and trade dirty needles for clean ones. A few previous studies have shown that exchanges may effectively reduce the risk of new infections.

In an October 17 letter to NIH director Dr. Harold Varmus, Dr. Sidney Wolfe of Public Citizen and Dr. Peter Lurie of the University of California at San Francisco protested NIH's funding for the Alaskan study of 600 IDUs, half of whom would be permitted to participate in a needle exchange program, while the other 300 IDUs would not, and instead would be referred to other sources for clean needles, such as pharmacies.

The three-year randomized study design aims to determine whether needle exchange programs can reduce infections, by observing whether IDUs who are denied participation in the exchange acquire more hepatitis B and HIV infections than those who are allowed to exchange needles.

"Although in the Tuskegee study known effective treatment for a life-threatening disease was withheld, in this human experiment, two known effective means of prevention – hepatitis B vaccine and the provision at no cost of sterile needles and syringes – are being withheld," state Lurie and Wolfe in their letter of protest.

In 1988, Congress banned federal funding of needle exchange programs until the U.S. Surgeon General determines that needle exchanges are effective in slowing the spread of HIV, and yet do not encourage drug use. Lurie and Wolfe cite several studies and reports which they say provide adequate proof that needle exchanges meet these two criteria. While the federal government has been without a Surgeon General since President Clinton fired Dr. Joycelyn Elders in 1994, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Donna Shalala has had the authority to lift the federal ban. She has not done so.

HHS estimates that over 20,000 HIV infections related to injection drug use occur in the United States each year.

'Biological plausibility'

Don Ralbovsky, spokesperson for the NIH, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that NIH director Varmus had previously signed off on the Alaskan study, believing that "all the ethical issues were satisfied." Last Thursday, NIH informed Dr. Dennis Fisher, the lead researcher for the study at the University of Alaska, that he will not be allowed

to recruit participants for the study, many of whom would be native Aleutians, until a special panel of reviewers appointed by Dr. Varmus gives its approval of the study's ethics. Ralbovsky would not say how long the panel's review would take, though Dr. Fisher says he was promised he could begin recruiting as planned on December 1.

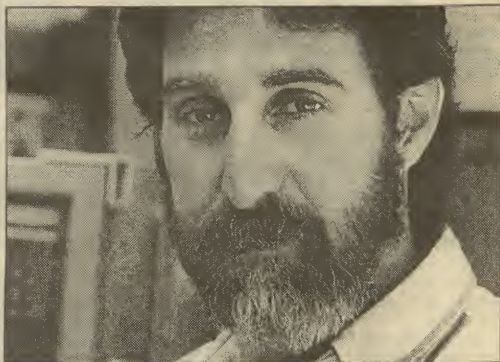
Speaking from his office in Anchorage, Dr. Fisher said that "there is biological plausibility that [needle exchange] would help, but it has not been demonstrated." He said that NIH had given his study the "best priority score."

Dr. Fisher notes that, unlike most other states, Alaska permits the purchase of needles and syringes at pharmacies without a prescription, and that the 300 IDUs who are not randomized to

participate in his study's needle exchange would be provided coupons to get needles from any of 25 pharmacies for free. He said that particularly during Alaskan winters, IDUs do not want to travel to a needle exchange site.

Dr. Fisher also said that NIH had removed a section in the study permitting participants to "cross-over" from one arm of the study to another, citing the need to maintain statistical integrity. He is now requesting that this "compassionate" section be replaced.

Nevertheless, opponents of the study are calling for all study volunteers to be offered hepatitis B vaccinations as well as the opportunity to participate in the needle exchange program. And while acknowledging the uphill battle they face, they are also calling for an end to the ban on federal funding



Dr. Peter Lurie of the University of California at San Francisco.

of needle exchange programs.

"At this moment, the last thing Bill Clinton wants to do is appear soft on drugs," said Dr. Lurie, who suggests that researchers have become unwitting accomplices of

the Clinton administration in proposing what he calls "unethical" research on needle exchange for dubious reasons. "The issue has had nothing to do with science and a lot to do with politics." ▼

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Gay questions, questionable answers in second presidential debate

by Bob Roehr

Gay and lesbian issues were raised in a televised presidential debate for the first time in American history Wednesday, October 16. And when it was all over, many gays and lesbians did not know whether to laugh or cry at what transpired.

About two-thirds of the way into the "town hall"-style debate in San Diego, audience member Bob Goldfarb identified himself as a travel agent, but not as a member of the gay San Diego Democratic Club, and asked the candidates to explain their positions on the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA).

Clinton went first. "I'm for it," he said. "That's my policy. I'm for it. I believe that any law-abiding, tax-paying citizen who shows up in the morning and doesn't break the law and doesn't interfere with his or her neighbors ought to have the ability to work in our country and shouldn't be subject to unfair discrimination. I'm for it."

He had used about 30 of his allotted 90 seconds and couldn't wait to get on to talking about something else, in this case the economy.

Clinton's support of ENDA has not been as unequivocal as he made it sound. Democrats con-

trolled Congress when the bill was introduced in July 1994, and Clinton prohibited Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Deval Patrick from testifying at the Senate hearing. The administration sent a letter supporting the principle, but not the legislation itself. It endorsed the bill only in October 1995.

Clinton used "weasel words" in his response — "law-abiding," "doesn't interfere," and "unfair discrimination." They left room

special rights for any group. That would be my answer to this question. And I'm — you know, there'd be special rights for different groups in America, but I'm totally opposed to discrimination, don't have any policy against hiring anyone — whether it's lifestyle or whatever, we don't have any policy of that kind, never had in my office, nor will we have in the future.

"But as far as special rights, I'm opposed to same-sex marriage — which the president signed well

ple are using the term 'special rights' when the question is equal rights."

"I want to answer your question," said Clinton, but he only got around to it after he spoke about a school prayer constitutional amendment in response to an earlier Dole comment.

Finally he turned to Dole's question. "Now I think I have to let Senator Dole speak for himself. It wouldn't be fair for me to do that." He went on to repeat, "If you show up tomorrow and obey the law, and you work hard, and you do what you are supposed to do, you're entitled to equal treatment."

Dole answered, "Well, I hope I made my answer clear. I said I'm opposed to discrimination. You know, we've suffered discrimination in the disability community. There are 43 million of us. And I can recall cases where people would cross the street rather than

meet someone in a wheelchair.

"So I want to end discrimination in America. We've made that clear. And I would just say that it seems to me that that's the way it ought to be. We shouldn't discriminate — race, color, whatever, lifestyle, disability. This is America, and we're all proud of it. But we're not there yet. What we need is good strong leadership going into the next century."

And with that, he switched topics altogether, lamenting the few questions on foreign policy.

The audience's questions allowed six minutes between the candidates for responses. Their mutual discomfort was palpable, they used less than two minutes of that time to address the issues. Neither candidate uttered the "g" or the "l" word, even though both questioners did. Neither even used the clinical term homosexual. ▼

Neither candidate uttered the "g" word or the "l" word, even though both questioners did.

for "fair" discrimination against gays in states that still have sodomy laws, and open gays "interfere[nce]" with the workplace performance of the devoutly religious who view homosexuality as a sin. A variation of that argument is used to ban openly gay people from the military, and is being defended in court by the administration.

'Special rights'

When Clinton finished, Dole responded, "Well, I'm opposed to discrimination in any form, but I'm — but I don't favor creating

after midnight one morning, in the dark of night — he opposed it." One could almost hear the index cards shuffling in Dole's mind as he made sure to insert key buzz words on an issue he had thought little about.

And with less than half of his time gone, Dole was equally eager to switch to the economy. Clinton still had a 30-second rebuttal, which he cheerfully used to avoid further talk about ENDA.

In the final question of the evening, Metropolitan Community Church minister Yvette Doby said, "I don't understand why peo-

What the media saw and said

by Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Discrimination

The media's coverage of lesbian and gay issues during the debate has mirrored their meager coverage of those issues throughout the campaign. Below are some scant highlights of the day after:

• Both *The New York Times* and the *Washington Post* printed whole transcripts of the debate. The *Times* headed the minister's question appropriately under "Equal Rights" while the *Post* headed the section, "Equal Rights or Special Rights." With the ENDA question, the *Times* labeled the discussion under the burdensome and confusing term "Homosexual Bias," while the *Post* headed it, accurately, under "Barring Discrimination."

• The *Washington Post* also ran an article entitled, "Perot Addresses Lifestyle Issues After Debate," which reported that on CNN's *Larry King Live*, Perot responded to a question about same-sex marriage and sex education in the schools by saying, "I can't imagine why you would want to teach that sort of thing in school."

• The *Los Angeles Times*, under the headline "Discord Over Gays," noted that "Clinton said he supported legislation that would protect gay men and lesbians from discrimination on the job. Dole declined to support the legislation, saying he supported equal treatment, but not special rights for particular groups." Nowhere else were lesbians and gays mentioned.

• The *San Francisco Chronicle* also gave gay issues passing comment, primarily to highlight Dole's struggle to connect with the audience, reporting, "To one woman who said she was unemployed, Dole said the first thing to do was to get her a job. But when another woman asked about equal rights for gays and lesbians, Dole's primary response concerned equal rights for the disabled." ▼

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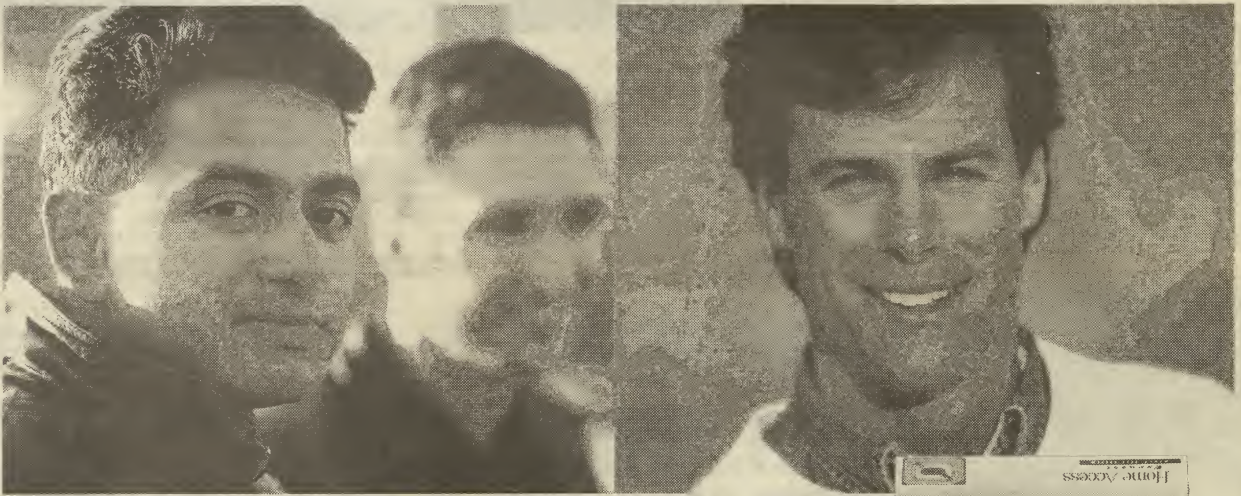
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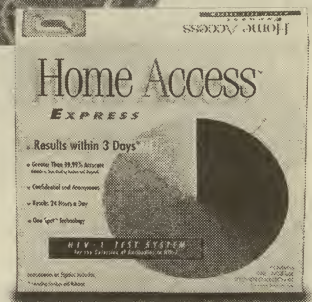
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Drug dealers and price gouging

by Matthew Sharp, ACT UP/
Golden Gate Writers Pool

ACT UP/Golden Gate released a report of AIDS drug price gouging by the pharmaceutical industry Friday, October 11, coinciding with a large and noisy demonstration at the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association (PhRMA) in Washington, DC. ACT UP chapters from Golden Gate, New York, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia targeted PhRMA, the pharmaceutical industry lobby, and over 200 people took part in the demonstration; no arrests were made.

The report and demonstration were born from frustration over the unfair monopoly pricing of AIDS drug therapies. Because of this price gouging, many people with HIV/AIDS do not have access to life-extending treatments.

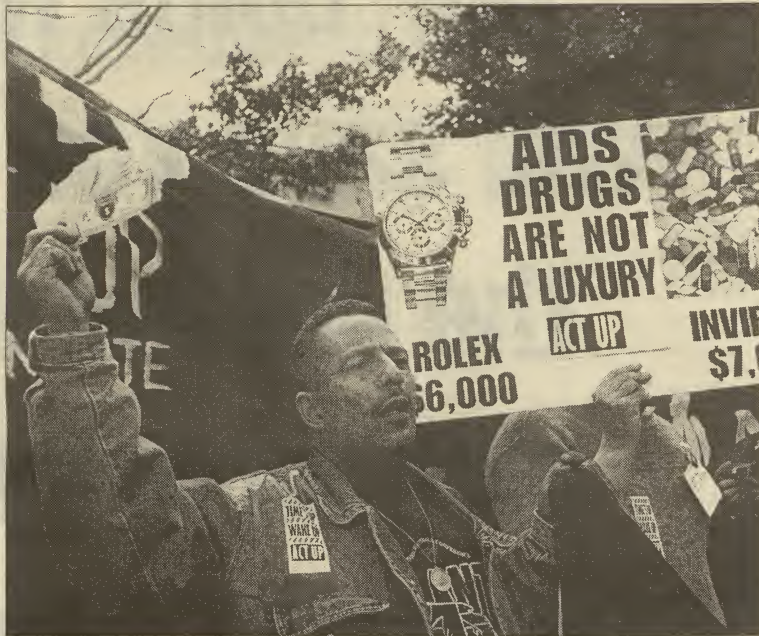
According to Don Howard, co-author of the report, "This is the first salvo in the battle to bring down the cost of new AIDS therapies, and we intend to follow with a complete analysis of profitability to determine where unfair prices are being charged by companies with monopolies on these life-saving treatments."

We have entered a new phase of controlling HIV as combina-

tion drug therapies, including protease inhibitors, are showing promise in bringing HIV/RNA viral load to undetectable levels. The International AIDS Conference in Vancouver presented most of this encouraging news, and many people with AIDS who are using these drug combinations are experiencing increased vigor and vitality, and going back to work and school.

However, not everyone is benefiting. Some people are experiencing side effects from the powerful antiviral drugs and protease inhibitors, and have had to quit using them. Difficult questions about when and if to intervene arise from problems with drug interactions, lack of statistics about how long the effect can be sustained, and the potential for resistant virus to develop from missed doses or changing therapies.

Nevertheless, new drugs that have clear capabilities to slow down HIV replication mean big bucks for the pharmaceutical industry. The ACT UP/Golden Gate report on AIDS drug pricing released last week calculates the costs for common combinations of therapies for people at different stages of HIV disease. Retail prices for each combination were collected from various pharmacies. All combinations included one new protease inhibitor. The basic combination therapy, without any prophylaxis



Luxury items: ACT UP demonstrators march Oct. 11 on the D.C. headquarters of PhRMA (Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturer's Association) to protest the high price of AIDS therapies.

drugs, totaled \$13,000 per year. In later stages of the illness, a typical combination of drugs can cost as much as \$19,500 per year. These are average retail prices for drug therapies and do not include diagnostic costs or other

health care costs. It is also important to remember that many people take additional therapies, for example human growth hormone, that can add tens of thousands more to their annual pharmaceutical bills.

The community agrees

At this juncture in the epidemic, there is a severe bottleneck in access to drugs because of high costs. There is growing consensus in the AIDS community that reducing drug prices is one of our highest priorities. "If there is one thing the community can agree upon it is the insanity of the high cost and inaccessibility of AIDS drugs," says Sally Cooper, Director of We PWA Health Group in New York City. "We need to agree upon a long-term detailed plan of action to deal with pharmaceutical greed. It is a huge problem that won't be solved over night."

In the United States, already

cash-strapped programs like the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), Medicaid, and MediCal are being forced to cut back on the number of drugs they cover. Often, they are being forced to make unethical decisions about which drugs are most important in combating HIV and its opportunistic infections. Further compounding the problem, funds committed to pay for drugs through ADAP are being stolen to pay for other programs, causing an uproar among activists and divisions in the AIDS community. In the developing world, where 90% of the epidemic has struck, these expensive drug therapies will never be affordable.

People are fed up. Treatment activists from all over the world are beginning to mobilize and demand an explanation for the high prices of these drugs. Drug companies and their lobbyists insist that the high prices are re-

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HIV PERSPECTIVE

sist that the high prices are required to provide a reasonable profit on their investment in developing and manufacturing these drugs. However, the companies uniformly refuse to supply information to support this claim.

In fact, the ACT UP/Golden Gate report shows that companies like Abbott, who make the new protease inhibitor Ritonavir, are earning 110% return on their investment. For comparison, a Tufts University report shows that the historical return for research and development investments in the U.S. pharmaceutical

their monopolies on these drugs by charging unfair prices. *The pharmaceutical industry is not charging fair prices that provide a fair return on their investments, they are price gouging and denying people with HIV/AIDS access to these treatments.*

Drug company tendrils

Drug companies are using their brilliant marketing departments to extend their tendrils into disenfranchised communities. Struggling AIDS service organizations are being offered grants from these companies. Companies like Hoffman-La

Roche and Merck even appeared at the National Minority AIDS Council's Treatment Advocates Forum, where they staged a mandatory focus group to market their products to attendees who had received scholarships to attend the event. The scholarship recipients were primarily people of color and Midwestern activists who were new to treatment activism. Showing their eerie, unethical agenda, these companies are trying to boost their profits by seeking out new markets in communities that are not yet educated in these therapies or trained to advocate for themselves.

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When the potential for the anabolic steroid oxandralone in the treatment of AIDS wasting was discovered, the price of the drug increased 1,200%.

industry has been 9%. Another well-documented case of price gouging is Bio-Technology General Corporation (BTG), which has the license for the anabolic steroid oxandralone. When the potential for oxandralone in the treatment of AIDS wasting was discovered, the price of the drug increased 1,200%.

Members of ACT UP/Golden Gate understand that drug companies must recoup their costs in order to continue research and development. We want the development of new and better drugs to continue. But, as the ACT UP/Golden Gate report shows, these companies are abusing

New clue to making AIDS vaccine

United Press International

The discovery of an immune trait that may promote resistance to HIV infection has implications for developing an AIDS vaccine, researchers said Friday, October 18.

Scientists at the University of California, Los Angeles, AIDS Institute found gay men with high levels of an antibody called VH3 were relatively resistant to HIV infection through sexual contact.

Sex with an infected partner or intravenous drug use with a contaminated needle are the two most common modes of transmission of HIV and AIDS.

Reporting in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, the scientists said a component of natural immunity may protect some individuals from HIV.

The blood of some people is rich in the VH3 antibody, which binds to the coat protein of the virus, said lead study author, pathologist Dr. Jonathan Braun.

In the study of 252 gay men, the investigators found those with high antibody levels were more resistant to HIV infection through sexual contact than those with low levels.

"Overall, the amount of VH3 antibody level made a five-fold difference in susceptibility to HIV

infection, giving a person with low VH3 antibody levels five times the risk," Braun said.

While they have not yet determined the protective mechanism in VH3, researchers know that in other viral diseases, antibodies may protect against infection by blocking entry of the virus into the cells or delivering the virus to scavenger cells for destruction.

VH3 antibodies are just one factor in a person's overall risk for sex-related infection, the study showed. The other factors include the frequency of sexual contact with the infected partner, genital infection, and trauma, said co-author Lawrence Kam of Harvard Medical School in Boston.

"The levels of these VH3 antibodies vary greatly in the population, and only about 15 percent of the population expresses high levels," Braun said.

The finding is significant because VH3 levels can be controlled through immunization, said co-author Stephen Gange of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland.

"We are now studying the strategy for selectively raising VH3 antibody levels," he said.

"It might be possible to raise the levels of VH3 antibodies as part of a comprehensive immunization strategy for protection," Braun said. ▼

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If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number.

Deadline for all obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m.

Luis Cazares

May 16, 1964 – Sept. 24, 1996



On September 24, 1996, our friend Luis Cazares passed away peacefully in his hometown of Madera, Calif. He leaves behind his family and numerous gay friends in San Francisco.

As a young, adventurous gay man, Luis moved to the City in the early '90s to work in retail as an assistant manager of a well-known drugstore chain. He was a quiet, easygoing, thoughtful man who enjoyed long walks, biking and the occasional "dressing up" for Halloween and other "special" occasions. Most of all, he embodied a man who did not judge others harshly and who always offered his support to his friends in Alcoholics Anonymous. We miss you, Luis, and hope you have found a better place.

Stephen William Crain

April 8, 1951 – Sept. 7, 1995



On the first anniversary of Stephen's death, friends and family recall his gallant fight and reflect on the strength and integrity of his life.

Co-workers from the California Dept. of Industrial Relations/Office of the Director-Legal think of his uncomplaining persistence and dedication.

Friends miss his gentle humor and deep sensitivity, his honesty and his grace.

Family members commemorate his kindness and understanding and, most especially, his unconditional love.

Stephen is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Crain of Traverse City, Mich.; his sister and brother and their children; and his California family: Mrs. Leah Fay Dominguez-Campbell,

Terrence Campbell and his wife Pamela Mather Campbell, and Stephen's life partner of 15 years, Philip Campbell.

A gathering will be held at 1 p.m. on Sunday, October 27, in the AIDS Memorial Grove to honor the inscription of Stephen's name in the Circle of Friends.

Robert Jeffrey Mack

June 29, 1954 – Oct. 11, 1996



Robert Jeffrey Mack of San Francisco died Friday, October 11, in a motorcycle accident in Sonoma County, Calif.

Born in Berkeley, Calif., Bob was a graduate of West Albany High

School in Albany, Oregon, in 1972; Linn-Benton Community College in Albany in 1974; and Oregon State University in Corvallis in 1976, where he majored in botany, a lifelong interest.

Bob worked as a botanist for Beak Associates of Portland, Ore., for several years following graduation and then trained in Oklahoma City, Okla., as an air traffic control specialist. He was employed by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration at the Oakland Flight Service Station from 1982 until the time of his death.

Bob was an avid bowler and a member of the American Bowling Congress. A life member of the American Motorcycle Association, he toured Europe by motorcycle last May.

Bob is survived by his mother, Sallie G. Mack of Corvallis; father, John Mack of Danville, Calif.; two sisters, Shelley Cimon of LaGrande, Ore., and Lauren Fulton of Corvallis; and a niece and nephew whom he cherished.

A celebration of his life will be held November 9 at 1 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church, 110 Julian Ave., San Francisco.

Memorial contributions in Bob's name may be made to Maitri Hospice, 61 Hartford St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

David Rex

July 6, 1942 – Oct. 1, 1996



David passed away at home on October 1 from AIDS-related lymphoma. He was surrounded by friends, Rick, Robbie and Erin, who cared and loved him deeply.

Born in Nantucket, Mass., David moved from Florida after his term in the service to San Francisco in the early '70s. After working for Liberty House for many years, he was employed at EDS for 16 years. He was also a waiter at Bradley's Corner for some time, as well as volunteering at

Project Open Hand for a short time.

David's favorite hobby was to ride roller coasters throughout the United States and Canada. He was a very active member of ACE, the American Coaster Enthusiasts. This interest took David to over 104 coaster rides in many amusement parks.

David is survived by his mother, Georgia of Nantucket; his sister, Janet of Connecticut; cousin, Betsy of Sacramento; and aunt, Marge of Massachusetts; as well as three nieces, a nephew and many cousins. He leaves many friends in Texas, Virginia, Florida and the Bay Area.

Thank you to Kaiser hospice nurse Clarissa and social worker Judith for all their loving support.

David showed all of us just what dignity and strength really are, and we'll miss him deeply.

Donations in David's memory may be made to the AIDS Emergency Fund or Project Open Hand.

The Reverend Robert Parker Royall

October 10, 1996

A memorial Eucharist will be held on Saturday, October 26, at 2 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church (Bush and Gough sts.) for The Reverend Robert Royall. A reception will follow in the church dining room.

Fr. Royall was a volunteer priest on the staff of Trinity Church for 10 years. During those years he worked tirelessly in the gay community blessing relationships, burying the dead, encouraging the living, and touching the hearts and lives of those he met in his parish church, on Polk Street and anywhere else his wandering feet would take him.

Memorial donations may be made to the Robert Royall Memorial Fund at Trinity Church, 1668 Bush St., San Francisco, CA 94109. Information: 415/775-1117.

Michael Douglas Sharp

March 17, 1956 – July 13, 1996



Michael Douglas Sharp died peacefully in Denver July 13. Mike was the beloved son of the late Harry and Lola Sharp and the brother of Cathy Allen of Phoenix. He is deeply missed by

Frank, his companion of 17 years, and also by John, Ralph, Joanne and Pamela in San Francisco and Kimberly, Brad, Erica and Carole in Denver. Their support during his last year was very special.

Mike was a talented musician and composer, a great chef, and a scholar of French and Gaelic.

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Rikki Streicher

◀ page 1

ing for this day."

"Rikki was not only a role model for many, but the heart and soul of our sports community," Downard said. "She built businesses for women and gave back to the community by remaining involved, committed, and financially generous. She not only sponsored local softball, bowling, pool, basketball, and soccer teams, she helped underwrite and envision the Gay Games."

A true hero

Recreation and Park Department staff noted Streicher was a "true San Francisco hero," and recommended the athletic field be named in her honor.

Jo Daly, a former police commissioner, spoke at the meeting and urged the commission to name the field in memory of Streicher.

"What you're doing today is extremely important," Daly said. "Rikki gave hope to the youth of the community."

Caroline Marks, a candidate for supervisor, was also at the meeting, but had to leave after another presentation took longer

than expected. Her husband, state Senator Milton Marks, spoke on her behalf.

"Let us honor the memory of a true San Franciscan," Marks said.

In June 1994, Streicher was honored with the Tom Waddell Cup at the closing ceremonies of the Gay Games in New York. That was eight years after she literally carried the torch for the Gay

**"Rikki was the heart and soul
of our sports community."**

—Hydie Downard

Games ceremony in San Francisco in 1986. She wrote the by-laws and articles of incorporation for the Federation of Gay Games. The board used to meet at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center.

Streicher moved to San Francisco in the mid-1940s. She was an accomplished businesswoman who owned and operated several popular venues during her career. One of those was Amelia's, a Valencia Street lesbian bar that had been a gay male strip joint. It is now the Elbo Room. She also owned Olive

Oyl's, a bar at Pier 50; and one of the first gay bars in the Russian River resort area, Vieux Carre, which operated during from the mid-1960s to the late 1970s.

In addition to her involvement with the Gay Games, Streicher served on the boards of directors of the Society for Individual Rights, the Tavern Guild, the Cable Car Awards, the GodFather Service Fund, 18th Street Services,

and the Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights. She was also grand marshal of the 1991 San Francisco Freedom Day Parade. ▼

The December 15 dedication of the Rikki Streicher Athletic Field will be held at 2 p.m. at the field, located on Collingwood near 19th Street. The ceremony will be followed by a gathering at the Elbo Room (the old Amelia's) at 17th and Valencia.

AIDS activist Mary Corwin dies

Pioneer for women with HIV was 42

by Cynthia Laird

Longtime AIDS activist and educator Mary Corwin died September 22 at her home in San Francisco at the age of 42.

Corwin was a tireless and compassionate AIDS activist and educator for the decade she lived with HIV/AIDS. She worked with several organizations, including Shanti, Ward 86, Institute for Community Health Outreach, Women's AIDS Network, and the WEDGE Program, to help improve education, support, and service delivery.

She and her daughter Sinead both won Shanti's "Making Every Day Count" award. Corwin appeared in Peter Adair's award-winning documentary *Absolutely Positive*; the 1995 television series *Positive: Life with HIV*; and Dartmouth Medical School's CD-ROM AIDS Curriculum for medical students.

"Mary was one of the pioneers in San Francisco, and the nation, to provide support and care for women in AIDS," said Dr. Charles Garfield, founder of the Shanti Project. "She also was one of the first to publicly advocate in support of people with AIDS who are injection drug users. Mary was a superb educator, a tremendous warrior in the fight for AIDS prevention and care, and a compassionate giver of support. She is irreplaceable."

Corwin was well known for her genuine, direct, and eloquent style as she broached the many difficult and sensitive issues of living with HIV infection. This included frank discussions with her daughter Sinead, the light and focus of her life.

Fellow AIDS activist Carla Abbotts, who was a close friend of Corwin's, said, "Mary was honest, loving, and open with her daughter about being HIV infected and

the life-threatening nature of AIDS. Sinead often joined Mary in speaking engagements and advocacy activities, such as the famous July 1995 *Seventeen* magazine article, 'Living with Dying,' and the public TV series *Positive: Life with HIV*. They were an extraordinarily powerful and compelling team of women who had a tremendous impact on teens and others at risk of HIV infection."

Dr. Sandra Hernandez, director of San Francisco's Department of Public Health, said Corwin was "a fearless pioneer and potent voice for women with HIV infection."

"While Mary openly reminded us that AIDS is not just a male disease, she was still accepted and embraced by the gay community."

tion.

"It is a tribute to Mary's rare talent that while she openly reminded us that AIDS is not just a male disease, she was still accepted and embraced by the gay community in San Francisco. Her advocacy helped change our perception of the face of AIDS," Hernandez added.

Born in Brooklyn, raised and educated in New York, Corwin moved to the West Coast and enjoyed a career as a financial analyst with the Kidder-Peabody Brokerage Firm before beginning her AIDS activism. In 1988 she and her husband, Billy Corwin, participated in an educational campaign sponsored by City Clinic and told their story on video. That project led to the idea for Adair's documentary, *Absolutely Positive*.

"Shortly after we finished the City Clinic piece, Peter told me he had been struck with an idea when we were filming Mary and

Billy: 'What about doing a longer piece about the psychology of living with the uncertainty of HIV...?' recalled *Absolutely Positive* producer Janet Cole.

At her memorial service, held September 25 at the Sweden-Borgian Church under the direction of Father Rodney DeMartini, executive director of the National Catholic AIDS Network, DeMartini remembered Corwin's advocacy work.

"She was one of the first women nationwide to be outspoken about her HIV infection, and to take city, state, and federal pro-

grams to task for their slow response to women in the AIDS epidemic," he said. "Mary was a remarkable woman of deep passion and conviction, who lived a life of hope. She was dedicated to her husband, daughter, family, friends, her HIV-infected companions, and even her critics. She lived a life of integrity and dignity, inspiring us to believe in ourselves and each other - to not give up on people."

Corwin is survived by her 16-



Mary Corwin as she appeared in the Peter Adair documentary, *Absolutely Positive*.

year-old daughter, Sinead of San Francisco; her mother Agnes Bailey of Brooklyn, New York; sisters Erin, Joan, Noreen; and brother Michael.

Contributions can be sent to: Trust for Sinead Corwin, c/o European American Bank, 120 Broadway, New York, New York 10271. ▼

'Phantom' stars in cabaret show to benefit breast cancer clinic

by Cynthia Laird

When Geena Jeffries and Christopher Carl, who play Carlotta and Raoul in *The Phantom of the Opera* here in San Francisco, open their new cabaret act *So This Is Love!* with pianist Peter Maleitzkeon Sunday, November 3 at The Plush Room, a portion of the show's proceeds will go to support the breast cancer division of the Haight Ashbury Women's Needs Clinic.

So This Is Love! is directed by Ted Bales, star of the off-Broadway hit *Party*, now playing at San Francisco's Cable Car Theater.

Bales describes the cabaret show as "a delightful look at the trials and tribulations of finding romance," using the classic trappings of a traditional cabaret piece and the styling of a contemporary Broadway show.

Jeffries has an eclectic musical career ranging from her roots in country music to opera and her current role as the grand diva Carlotta in *Phantom*. Carl has performed in countless musical

theater productions and has appeared in *Camelot*, *My Fair Lady*, and *Evita*. Both performers are making their San Francisco cabaret debut.

Jeffries and Carl blend comedy, a touch of drama, and some of the brass of old-fashioned vaudeville sketch comedy in the show, as they perform the works of such Broadway composers as Stephen Sondheim, Steven Schwartz, Jerry Herman, John Kander, and Fred Ebb.

The breast cancer division of Haight Ashbury's Women's Needs Clinic provides referrals for women. Health educators also provide breast checks for clients and teach women how to do breast self-exams. The clinic does not provide mammography services, a spokeswoman said. ▼

The benefit performance starts at 9 p.m. at The Plush Room, located at 940 Sutter Street between Leavenworth and Hyde. Tickets are \$25 per person. For reservations, call (415) 885-2800.

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Low down dive

by Jim Provenzano

The only thing more amusing than swimming is diving. Not high diving, scuba diving. You get to defy your lungs and see what life is like on the majority of the planet, the part under sea level.

Little Mermaid (or merman) fantasies aside, undersea life is even more fascinating in person than in those Jacques Cousteau documentaries, where it was always plenty swell. I remember asking for scuba equipment one Christmas, but I think that may have been unduly inspired by Rod Serling's narration in the films — and the crew members running around in bikinis.

The Bay Area's active and organized group for scuba diving is Northern California Rainbow Divers. If exotic fish, coral, and the rest of the amazing array of water-breathing life interest you, NCRD is a terrific place to start or advance as a queer aquatic, and to get to know and understand the environment, from the sea floor up.

NCRD sponsors a gay and lesbian class a few times a year and plans frequent trips to beautiful spots around the world. Marla Jurosek, who is on the board of the club and plans programming, has been diving for a couple of years, and is organizing the club's Cook Islands trip next April.

"We do a monthly dive in California, usually in Monterey

or Carmel," Jurosek said. "We either shore dive or go out on a float. We also do an annual trip to Channel Islands off Santa Barbara."

Asked what sort of marine life divers can find around the Northern California coast, he noted that the big attractions are the kelp forests all up and down the coast.

"Also octopus, and all kinds of invertebrates, including colorful nudibranchs," which he explained are colorful slugs who crawl on the sea floor. "You see sea lions down around Monterey. Sea otters will sometimes come and play."

And while a lot more people are warm water divers, NCRD member Steve Graham said local cold water has more variety of marine life, from shelled creatures to otters.

Graham recently returned from the Bahamas, where the group was part of Diving For Life, a fundraising event that last year contributed to women's cancer groups. This year, \$20,000 was raised nationally; the San Francisco portion will be donated to Homecare Companions.

Greg Abrams, a founding member who does all the dive planning, also organizes Dive For Life. This weekend's event (Saturday, October 26) goes to Point Lobos.

Let the sharks run

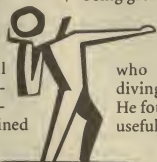
Along with community involvement, Graham enjoys the magic undersea life, and recently even took a Shark Awareness Training class. Yes, despite the likelihood of lightning striking being greater than the possibility of shark bite, it does happen.

"I have friends who think I'm crazy for diving," Graham admitted. He found the shark training useful "in helping us understand their behavior."

While an instructor let small sharks run about, Graham said the experience gave him "a wonderful peaceful feeling. We didn't do anything more than sit and look."

Jurosek's enjoyment of scuba diving comes from the serenity he finds while submerged. "There's no telephone, no pagers. It's peaceful."

Now's the time to combine diving and vacation, since NCRD is planning a Maui dive trip next January 25 through February 1. Divers will be led by Ed Robinson, an experienced dive operator. This charter departs from Kehei, where some beautiful condos will be rented for the trip. Three days of two-tank dives are planned at Molokini, Lanai, and other beautiful locales. The package, including airfare and car rentals, is \$355. The total land package is \$500, with



Sports Complex

a \$250 deposit needed by November 12.

"We try to make trips affordable, with diving in mind and the main focus," said Jurosek. Not to say that romance or relaxation aren't also of interest. "After a day of diving," Jurosek said, "I wanna sit on my veranda, have a pina colada, and watch the sunset."

As to the club, he calls it "a great place to get together. We have monthly meetings the second Tuesday of every month at the Sierra Club."

Novice divers need to get their basic certification at any of the dive shops around the Bay Area, where the appropriate equipment can be either rented or bought.

Class work is done with textbook and pool work. After learning practice skills, classes usually take ocean dives with an instructor. After getting certification, a diver can basically tank up and dive anywhere. "If you go to a dive shop," Jurosek said, "they'll ask for your C card," which proves certification. ▼

For information on the Maui dive trip, call Steve Graham at (510) 836-3647. For general information about NCRD, call (415) 522-2348, or write NCRD, P.O. Box 851, San Ramon CA 94583. For more info about this weekend's event, call Greg Abrams at (415) 863-4774.

A real shitfight

◀ page 1

group remained "committed to escalation" as the "only way counter the drug companies hype," and hoped to "clog the courts" as a political tactic.

ACT UP/Golden Gate denouncement

ACT UP/Golden Gate member Steven Le Blanc was also critical of the activist's antics, even though he said that ACT UP/Golden Gate had its own issues with the AIDS Foundation for its support of increased funding for AIDS services over increased federal funding for drugs for PWAs.

The violence of the incident also bothered Le Blanc.

"It was really despicable in a lot of ways. Not only was it an assault on Pat Christen, it was an assault on the PWAs in the room," he said. "They didn't need to have

dirty cat shit dumped in their breathing space."

Leblanc and Christen expressed concern that people with HIV/AIDS may have been needlessly exposed to toxoplasmosis, an AIDS opportunistic infection caused by cat feces.

Burk dismissed such concerns and said they were an effort to evade the issue.

"First of all, I daresay that at the moment of attack, I was the only HIV-positive person on the stage. I personally was the only one at risk," he said. "I'm outraged that people think the issue is over kitty litter, when these drugs are being forced by the healthcare system and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation to pregnant women and stressed out HIV-positive individuals."

Several members of the group are currently facing trial on charges of trespassing and assault for a recent disturbance at Davies Medical Center. ▼

Thrift Store

◀ page 5

made up of community service workers.

The other 35 percent of profits, which will increase when the mortgage is paid off, goes to the scores of non-profit organizations that have registered with the store.

Community Thrift has an acceptance policy that includes almost everything, but excludes the following: clothes that are torn, dirty, or stained, and hospital, medical supplies, and water beds (for health reasons); electronic or electrical devices that are broken (because they cannot repair them); and large appliances such as stoves, refrigerators, washers, and beds (due to limited storage space). Donations are accepted 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the loading dock on Sycamore Alley next

to the store.

Stanley Boyd, who is in charge of all sorts of extraordinary items in the collectibles department, advises that people who donate merchandise should pick out their favorite 501(c)3 charity listed with Community Thrift. "If the item works," Stanley says, "we will sell it for that charity."

Like any non-profit organization, the store can always use more help. "We need enthusiastic people," Weinstein said. "People who don't mind working on weekends, because that happens to be our busiest time. We need people who are here to work for the causes, and not for the merchandise, that's important." ▼

The Community Thrift Store is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., closed holidays. Phone: (415) 861-4910.

HIV Council

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this medication to people living on the street.

"The medication regimens are complicated, and for those living on the street it might be difficult if not impossible," Bangsberg said. "There are real difficult questions of how to get protease inhibitors to this group, and will they be accessible and will they benefit street people?"

David Ray, an intake nurse at

SFGH, said he's a strong believer in case management services, as they often help people who are dually or triply diagnosed by having a person who can help complete forms and advocate for them. ▼

The HIV Planning Council meets Monday, October 28 at 4:30 p.m. in the sixth floor conference room of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, 10 United Nations Plaza, at Seventh and Market streets.

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HEALTH RESOURCES

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Send health resource listings to:

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San Francisco, CA 94103

Acupuncture

The Community Acupuncture Project offers free acupuncture Wed., 9-11:30am, American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine, 450 Connecticut. 282-9603.

AIDS Benefits Counselors

Professional review and counseling about benefits for people with AIDS/HIV+. Free. For intake scheduling, screening, referral, call 558-9845.

AIDS Community Research Consortium
Conducts HIV and AIDS clinical trials at sites located in San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties. For a free listing of current trials available, call 800 864-ACRC.

AIDS Dementia CARE Unit

At St. Mary's Medical Center seeks volunteers to visit patients with HIV-related cognitive impairments. Call Stephan Ouellette, MSW, 750-4976.

AIDS Emergency Fund

Provides financial assistance to people with disabling HIV. Office volunteers needed for day shifts. Call 558-6999.

AIDS Health Project

Mixed caregivers and women's caregivers groups; drop-in groups for HIV+ and PWA. More info, intake interviews: 476-3902.

AIDS/HIV Nightline

Volunteers needed to provide telephone emotional support, intensive training course provided. 984-1902.

AIDS Memorial Grove

Monthly workdays: weeding, clearing, replanting at Bowling Green Dr. and Middle Drive East, Golden Gate Park. Info: 750-8340.

AIDS-Related Vision Loss

Support Group
Meets 1st & 3rd Tues., 1pm at Rose Resnick Lighthouse, 214 Van Ness. 431-1481, ext. 294 or 215.

AIDS Support Group

2+ years since diagnosis. No charge, fees paid by Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Resource Group. Thursdays, 1pm. Call Gail Winston for intake: 552-7577.

AIDS Treatment Education Network

Provides free educational forums for people with HIV/AIDS: holistic healing and survival strate-

gies. 284-6237.

Alternative Family Project

Offers family counseling, support groups and events for families with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered members. 566-5683.

Assemblywoman Carole Migden

Seeks volunteers and interns to assist in her SF office. Call Bob Harnagel at 557-0784.

Baker Places

Provides housing for people with AIDS who have substance abuse and/or mental health issues. For info or intake call 284-1740.

Bay Positives

Provides recreational and emotional support for people up to 26 years old living with HIV. Ongoing support groups meet weekly. 487-1616.

Baylands Family Circle

Non-profit group of families headed by gay, lesbian and bisexual partners, meets monthly for social. Call Tom, 858-2468.

Bereavement Groups

For family, friends and partners who have lost a loved one to AIDS. Visiting Nurses and Hospice of SF. 750-4404.

Boy + Boy

Actions which promote safe sex among young gay and bi men. Tues, 7pm at Stop AIDS Project, 201 Sanchez. 431-2321 x80V.

Brothers Network

Support services for the gay, bisexual and transgender African-American community. 973 Market, Suite #650. Call for groups and schedule: 356-8140.

Buddhist AIDS Project

Provides info on Buddhist resources, events, and HIV alternative health services. Call 522-7473.

Catholic Charities

Residential and direct HIV services include Guerrero House, Peter Claver Community, more. 814 Mission. 281-1200.

Chemically Sensitive & HIV

Support group forming for those allergic to perfumes and chemicals. 922-1348.

Clinica Esperanza

The HIV Clinic at Mission Neighborhood Health Center provides comprehensive bilingual HIV services. Sliding scale fees. 332-1212.

Coming out support group for men

Meets Weds., 6-7:30pm at New Leaf (formerly Openhouse), 1853 Market St. Men of all ages welcome. Facilitated by Kirk Hinman, PhD. Info: 626-7000.

Community United Against Violence

Begins training Volunteer Counselors on their 24-hour crisis line. Call Niu at 777-5500.

Comprehensive Outreach Project

For Asian Substance Abusers
Reduced risk of HIV infection thru counseling and

treatment referrals. Multilingual. 541-9404.

Connections

Is a confidential, one-on-one peer support focusing on HIV prevention by and for gay men of color. Free. Call 356-8114.

Continuum HIV Day Services

An adult day health care facility for people with disabling HIV disease, located in the Tenderloin. Medical services, counseling, therapy, meals, activities. 241-5500.

Diabetics

Support group for gay, lesbian and bisexual Type I and Type II diabetics in SF and the East Bay. Info: 865-2933.

Drug Detox Program

Outpatient, medical drug detox, HIV acute care, counseling and education, free. Haight Ashbury Free Clinics, 529 Clayton. Call Hector, 565-1909.

East Bay HIV/AIDS 12

Step Support Group
Ongoing. Open to all with HIV who have experience with any 12 step program. Mon. evens, 6:15pm. Info: Paul (510) 465-4311.

Ellipse-Peninsula

AIDS Services
Support groups, emotional & practical buddy program, food program and case management for PWAs in San Mateo Co. 572-9702.

Eureka Acupuncture & Yoga Center
Offers yoga, massage, low cost acupuncture. 301 Eureka. 648-2215.

FABRIC

A support/social group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning Asian and Pacific Islander youth 25-under, has drop-in every Tues., 6-8pm. GCHP, 30 Pearl St. 575-3939, x318/x504.

Galeams

Service organization supporting gay and lesbian employees of Pacific Bell. Membership info: call 747-9880.

Gay Young Spirit

A new spiritual/social group for gay men in their 20s & 30s, meets alternate Tues., 7:15pm, in SF. Call 703-7181.

G40+ Club

A social group for gay/bi men 40 and over, meets 1st & 3rd Sundays every month, 2pm. Call 552-1997.

Haight-Ashbury Free Clinics'

Drug Detox
Rehabilitation and Aftercare Program, counseling and HIV education, free. Hector, 565-1909.

Healing Alternatives Foundation

Maintains public HIV/AIDS Treatment & Resource Library. Also Buyer's Club for health products, open Tues.-Sat. 1748 Market St. Info: 626-4053.

Healing Circle

Community and emotional support for anyone facing life challenges, HIV, cancer. Thursdays, 7pm. Women's Bldg., 3543 18th St. 469-9950.

Health Support Services

For PWAs and their caregivers, Wednesdays 6-9pm, Marin Treatment Center, 1466 Lincoln Ave., San Rafael. Registration: 457-3755.

Hepatitis "B" Testing

And vaccinations for young (15-23) gay and bisexual men, free. Berkeley Free Clinic, 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley, Sun., 5-7pm. (510) 644-0425.

HIV/AIDS Group

Emotional and spiritual support group sponsored by the Center for Alternative Healing and Kairo House, Mondays, 7pm. 2128 15th St. Call 331-6161, x106.

HIV Testing

Free, anonymous testing, counseling and education. 1st Thursday and 3rd Friday of each month, 10pm-12:30am. 933 Harrison, upstairs.

Laguna Honda

Hospital AIDS Unit
Provides compassionate care to PWAs who are SF residents in need of 24-hour nursing care. Call 664-1580.

Lambda Youth and Family

Empowerment Program
(LYFE) Peer support and mentoring programs for lesbian/gay bisexual/transgender youth. 565-7681.

Legal Services for Children's

H.O.P.E. Project
Provides social and legal services to low-income HIV affected families. Info: 863-3762.

Lesbian Social Group

For lesbians and bisexual women in Tri-Cities/So. Alameda Co. Thurs, 7pm at The Edge, 39160 State, Fremont. 790-2887.

Leslie Katz fundraiser

Join Milk LG/B Demo Club, LGADDA, and Alice Toklas Club on Sunday, Oct. 27, 4-4pm at home of Geoffrey Kors and Bill Berry, 22 Eureka. RSVP: 255-2378.

Marin Co. STD/HIV Clinics

STD testing; HIV anonymous testing, treatment. Call 499-7804.

Martin De Porres House of Hospitality
Needs volunteers to work in soup kitchen, breakfast and lunch. 225 Potrero. 552-0240.

Men Overcoming Sexual Assault

Operates sexual assault hotline for men. Mon.-

Fri., 7-10pm. (510) 845-7273.

MCC Chronic/Life-Threatening

Support Group
Every Wed., 1-3pm, at MCC, 150 Eureka St. Free, drop-in. Call 863-4434.

MWM

A rap group for gay/bi Asian Pacific Islander men and their partners. Wed. nights, 6:30pm. Asian AIDS Project, 785 Market, Suite 420. 227-0946.

New Leaf transgender substance

abuse group
Mondays 6-5:30pm. Contact Fred Barrios, 626-7000 x146.

Operation Recovery

Provides substance abuse and mental health treatment for les, gay, bi, and trans community. Drop-in groups for women, 7pm Tues.; for men, 8pm Thurs. Info/intake: 626-7000.

Project HOPE

Offers HIV prevention peer counseling to gay, bisexual and transgender men of color. Call 356-8114.

Project Open Hand

Provides free prepared meals, groceries and nutrition counseling for people with symptomatic and disabling HIV disease. Call 1-800-551-6325 for intake information.

SCA

Sexual Compulsive Anonymous meets every Mon. at 8pm, 2128 15th St. 864-7230.

Senior Central

Provides info, referral and assistance to gay and lesbian seniors, free and confidential services. 360 4th St. 777-3233.

Southern Alameda HIV Services

Tri-City Health Center provides comprehensive HIV services, with offices in Fremont and Hayward, (510) 713-6670 and 727-9233, respectively. Spanish and Tagalog spoken.

Stanford GALA

Gay, lesbian, bisexual alumni/ae club of Stanford Univ. Info: 723-9036.

St. Francis Senior Center

Invites seniors to weekly gatherings, Wed. 10am-2pm. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church. 621-2635.

Tambayan

Support network for gay, lesbian and transgender Filipinos in the Bay Area. Thurs., 7pm at Filipino Task Force on AIDS, 1540 Market St. 315-7880.

Transcendental Meditation Center

Has scholarships for low income people with HIV. Call Paul Brown at 931-1621.

Transgendered Support Group

Holds a potluck every third Saturday, 6:30pm at MCC San Jose, 65 S. Seventh St., San Jose. Call Rev. Chad Pfifer, 279-2711.

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 208216

The following person(s) are doing business as 1. BEAU REGARDS 2. HOMEBODY MAGAZINE, 1201 Green Street, #7, San Francisco, CA 94109. Calvin Brady Ennis, 1201 Green Street, #7, San Francisco, CA 94109. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Calvin Brady Ennis. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on September 30, 1996.
Oct 3, 10, 17, 24, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 208203

The following person(s) are doing business as ERIC STATEN ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN, 1715 22nd St, San Francisco, CA 94107. Eric Dean Staten, 1715 22nd St., San Francisco, CA 94107. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Sept 27, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Eric D. Staten. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on September 30, 1996.
Oct 3, 10, 17, 24, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 208434

The following person(s) are doing business as HAN BAT KOREAN RESTAURANT, 2001 Taraval St., San Francisco, CA 94116: Dong Joo Lee, 2150 41st Ave., San Francisco, CA 94116. Jung Eem Lee, 2150 41st Ave., San Francisco, CA 94116. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Oct. 8, 1996. This business is conducted by husband and wife. Signed Dong Joo Lee. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on October 8, 1996.
Oct 10, 17, 24, 31, 1996.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR

CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 981224

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of MICHAEL D. TARBUTTON aka MICHAEL DREW TARBUTTON for change of name. The application of MICHAEL D. TARBUTTON, aka MICHAEL DREW TARBUTTON for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that PETITIONER has filed an application proposing that HIS name be change to MICHAEL D. FIELD, aka MICHAEL DREW FIELD. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 5th day of November, 1996, at 9:00 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of the Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 23rd day of August, 1996.
Oct 3, 10, 17, 24, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 207529

The following person(s) are doing business as HEALING ALTERNATIVES FOUNDATION, 1748 Market St. #205, San Francisco, CA 94102: Healing Alternatives Foundation (California) 1748 Market St. #205, San Francisco, CA 94102. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Sept. 3, 1996. This business is conducted by a non-profit corporation. Signed Matthew Sharp. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Sept. 3, 1996.
Oct 10, 17, 24, 31, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 208326

The following person(s) are doing business as NEW TRENDS, 16 Lexington, San Francisco, CA 94110: Richard Kachmar, 16 Lexington, San Francisco, CA 94110. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Oct. 1, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Richard Kachmar. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on October 3, 1996.
Oct 10, 17, 24, 31, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 208311

The following person(s) are doing business as SAN FRANCISCO GAY MEN'S INVESTMENT CLUB, 244 Richmond Ave., San Francisco, CA 94110: John Ozella 4076 17th St. #508, San Francisco, CA 94114, John Welch, 275 Grand View #204, San Francisco, CA 94110, Raymond Hernandez, 244 Richmond Ave., San Francisco, CA 94110. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Oct. 1, 1996. This business is conducted by a general partnership. Signed Raymond Hernandez. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on October 2, 1996.
Oct 10, 17, 24, 31, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 207939

The following person(s) are doing business as WEB VIDEO AND ELECTRONICS, 66 Cleary Court #205, San Francisco, CA 94109: Sonia Mirra Ramirez, 66 Cleary Court #205, San Francisco, CA 94109. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Oct. 9, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Sonia Mirra Ramirez. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Sept 18, 1996.
Oct 10, 17, 24, 31, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 208254

The following person(s) are doing business as MATERIAL CULTURE, Two Henry Adams St. San Francisco, CA 94103: Richard Habib, 27 Camino de Herred, San Anselmo, CA 94960. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Oct. 1, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Richard Habib. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on October 1, 1996.
Oct 10, 17, 24, 31, 1996.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR

CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 980713

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of ROBERT DWIGHT HOWARD for change of name. The application of ROBERT DWIGHT HOWARD for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that ROBERT DWIGHT HOWARD has filed an application proposing that HIS name be change to ROBERT ALESSIO WILDER BLUE. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 4th day of November, 1996, at 9:00 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of the Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 18th day of September, 1996.
Oct 10, 17, 24, 31, 1996.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR

CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF AL-

COHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE

Date of Filing Application: OCT 4, 1996
To Whom It May Concern:
The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are:
LEE DONG JOO
LEE JUNG EEM
The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 2001 TARAVALL ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94116. For the following type of License: 41 ON-SALE BEER AND WINE-EATING, SAN FRANCISCO District Office 185 BERRY ST. STE 5600, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94107 (415) 557-3660
Oct 10, 17, 24, 31, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 208469

The following person(s) are doing business as 1. THE ARC SAN FRANCISCO, 2. THE BASKET CASE, 1500 Howard St., The Arc San Francisco, CA, 1500 Howard St., San Francisco, CA 94103-2525. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date

of Nov. 13, 1996. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed Tom Christian, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on October 7, 1996.
Oct 17, 24, 31, Nov. 7, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 208589

The following person(s) are doing business as HOLSUM MARKET, 4686 18th St., San Francisco, CA 94114: Faisal H. Tbeleh, 1527 10th Ave, San Francisco, CA 94122. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Oct 15, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Faisal Tbeleh. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on October 15, 1996.
Oct 24, 31, Nov. 7, 14, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 208670

The following person(s) are doing business as MACK TEAM REGIME, 2311 Bourbon Ct., South San Francisco, CA 94080: Vinson E. Johnson, 2311 Bourbon Ct., South San Francisco, CA 94080. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Oct 18, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Vinson Johnson. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on October 18, 1996.
Oct 24, 31, Nov. 7, 14, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 208734

The following person(s) are doing business as TRAVEL ARE US, 500 Sutter St., Suite 214, San Francisco, CA 94102: Phil S. Obligar, 1031 Clyde Ave #1104, Santa Clara, CA 95054: Marvin & Merriame Cuaresma, 1208 Lynn Ave, San Jose, CA 95122: Leonardo Bindoy Jr., 69 Occan-side Dr., Daly City, CA 94015. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by a general partnership. Signed Phil S. Obligar. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on October 22, 1996.
Oct 24, 31, Nov. 7, 14, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT FILE NO. 208469

The following person(s) are doing business as CAFE "INTO", 1460 A Fillmore St., San Francisco, CA 94115: Kang Sung Ung, 855 McAllister St. #6, San Francisco, CA 94102. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Oct 18, 1996

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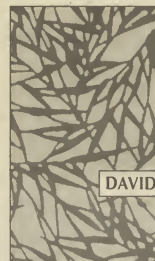
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John F. Karr meditates on the hard, thrusting, pulsating members in Steven Arnold's 'Exotic Tableaux.'
page 50

Sweet Lips has the low-down on what to do and where to do it for Halloween '96.
page 55



Nan Goldin exhibit opens at New York's Whitney Museum.
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 26 • No. 43 • 24 October 1996



PlanetOut can be found on the World Wide Web at:
<http://www.planetout.com>

Only connect PlanetOut: a postmodern Grand Central Station

by Wayne Hoffman

Tom Rielly is a man with a vision. Five years ago, he put his Silicon Valley background to use for the gay community, as co-founder of Digital Queers. Working to get computers into the hands of gay organizations and non-profits, the organization made technology into a community crusade. But Rielly wasn't satisfied. "I realized there was nothing online for gays and lesbians that met my vision for what could be done," says Rielly. "So I said at some point you have to do it yourself."

Thus began PlanetOut. Combining Internet resources, community information, and interpersonal communication, PlanetOut debuted on Microsoft's MSN network last fall. One year later, Rielly and PlanetOut Executive Producer Karen Wicks (also of Digital Queers) have opened PlanetOut to the rest of the world, launching simultaneously last month on America Online and as an independent website. PlanetOut is a universe in the mold of America Online. The site combines original content, interactive chat rooms, and message boards with links to other, pre-existing resources. Original content includes online magazines, such as *PopcornQ* (queer film and video; see sidebar); *Shout* (celebrities and entertainment); and *This Way Out* (music). It also includes online daily

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Sunny conundrum

Abundance of gay musicians is making 'gay' music harder than ever to define

by Wayne Hoffman

From lesbian gospel to gay country music to queercore, gay and lesbian music has finally arrived. This month's Gay/Lesbian American Music Awards (GLAMA), held last week in New York, marks the coming together of artists under a banner that allows musicians to come out and still gain recognition from the industry.

Tom McCormack, co-creator of GLAMA, has three albums under his belt as an openly gay singer. And as an industry insider, he thinks the days of closeted musicians singing coded or *faux*-straight songs are ending. "Not to sound Pollyanna about it," he says, "but in this day and age when you've got people like Elton John and k.d. lang and Melissa Etheridge out there, the fear from the business side is ill-founded."

But even if gay musicians have finally started to overcome their fears of disclosure, and record companies have realized that openly gay musicians can sell records, there are still questions to be answered. Most significantly, with the growing number of gay and lesbian musicians com-

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k.d. lang waited until she was famous before coming out.



Catie Curtis was queer-identified from the start.

k.d. lang photo: Albert Sanchez, Catie Curtis photo: Caroline Greylock

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

by Chris Culwell
and Pithy Galore

San Francisco has fallen in love with *Beautiful Thing*, Hettie MacDonald's feel-good flick about budding homo love between two teens in a U.K. housing project (it's at the Lumiere). Gay British playwright Jonathan Harvey's sensitive and witty script, adapted from his play of the same name, is his first venture into the world of film, but with such a strong debut it's certainly not his last.

We called up the 28-year-old playwright last week in LA, where he was touring with the film. "No,

there won't be any sequels," he said when we asked if the film's endearing characters might be reprised for further adventures. "Sequels seem to be an American thing."

Harvey's been criticized by some because of the film's fantasy-like ending, in which the two protagonists, cute teens Jamie and Ste, slow dance together in the courtyard of a tenement house while onlookers slowly follow suit. Harvey admits the scene is "pure wish-fulfillment," but adds, "It works because you get the feeling the characters simply had to do it. It was inevitable. Plus, everybody wants a happy ending, and in this situation peo-

ple can identify with the characters' happiness. I think it works."

Harvey, who lives in England, is hard at work on several projects, including negotiations for a stage musical featuring the *Pet Shop Boys*.

Cat with nine lives

In 1959 Kim Novak played a sorceress in Richard Quine's charming fluffball of a flick *Bell, Book and Candle*. If you thought Novak was pretty convincing enacting a high priestess of magic on the screen, you'd have thought she was the real thing last Friday when the actress stepped onto the stage of the Castro Theatre to introduce Universal's glorious restoration of *Vertigo*, in which she starred in 1958.

Anybody who can look that good at age 62 must possess very special powers indeed.

In a brief onstage interview following Friday's screening of the Hitchcock thriller, Novak answered questions from the audience about her involvement with the film, in which she played two women from completely different sides of the train tracks. "I identify with both Judy and Madeleine," she said in response to a question about which role she preferred. "Each is a woman who just wanted to be loved, and each is a woman who realized that she must make compromises to get what she wants. Women are still in that position today."

"When I first read [Judy's] lines, 'I want you to love me for me,' I identified with it so much. Because it was what I felt when I came to Hollywood as a young girl. You know, they want to make you over completely."

About the notoriously odd Hitchcock Novak had nothing but kind words. "He was not difficult to work with. I hear all these horror stories, but this wasn't my experience. He had a wonderful sense of humor, and I really appreciated the fact that he allowed a woman to interpret her role." (Apparently Hitch wasn't as generously disposed to Novak as she to him. The director reportedly told *Vertigo* fanatic Francois Truffaut that he did not like her performance in the film.)

Novak noted Friday that two films in which she has starred have now been restored — *Vertigo* and *Picnic*. "I hope if there are any more plans for restorations of my work," said the actress, "that it'll be *The Man With the Golden Arm* (1955)."

Since this is San Francisco, nobody was nonplussed when a queen asked the actress if she "got to keep the clothes" she wore in *Vertigo*, doubtless some of Edith Head's best work. Novak's witty rejoinder was a memorable variation on one of *Vertigo*'s key lines: "No. It's not good to keep sou-

venirs from the past." *Vertigo* continues at the Castro Theatre through Nov. 7.

Boze babbles on

Prolific Boze Hadleigh, author of *Hollywood Babble On* and other tomes, has come out with another collection of dimwitted interviews with "out" and closeted film and TV stars of yore. Not that all the fault with *Hollywood*

Gays lies with its author — some of the subjects' observations, including those of Cary Grant, Anthony Perkins and Brad Davis, are as banal as Hadleigh's questions.

Liberace, James Coco and Perkins come off — no big surprise — as insecure queens. Coco

slips the dish that Lionel Barrymore liked 'em young. Stop the presses. Liberace plays coy, but Boze, the fox terrier of gay journalism, wears America's No. 1 Nellie down to a frazzle: "What's the point of this? 'Coming out' is for younger people who want to stay in the headlines all the time! I don't need or like headlines. ... You really have upset me." Us, too, Lee.

The worthwhile parts of this book could fill a brochure. The rest is filled with feeble attempts at interrogation, such as this lead-in to Cary Grant: "I couldn't help noticing — and please stop me, if you don't want me to bring this up — that when I mentioned the author Kenneth Anger your mouth went down at the corners...?"

Why not just ask the goddamn question (about the series of 1930s photos Anger published in *Hollywood Babylon II* of Grant and his "roommate" Randolph Scott)? No wonder Hadleigh never gets a direct answer. Still, one must give him credit for tracking down stars such as Cesar Romero and William Haines before they died to ask them about gay life during Hollywood's golden era.

Romero is rather forthcoming about his career as a "Latin lover" and a tryst with Desi Arnaz. ("Desi loved sex. He couldn't get enough.") But Romero draws the line at describing precisely what went on between him and the delectable Tyrone Power.

The story of Haines being hounded by Louis B. Mayer of MGM to stop living with lover Jimmy Shields has been floating around for years, but it's interesting to hear Haines' version of his chat with the studio chief. Haines refused to move out, and asked Mayer how he'd feel if someone asked him not to live with his wife.

"I think he was shocked," Haines tells Hadleigh. "My reason for asking that was to show that that's how much Jimmy meant to me." (Haines meant a lot to Shields, too. They lived together

for 54 years. Shields killed himself the year after his lover died, leaving a note that ran in part: "It's no good without Billy.")

Memory lane

It's been a while since we've heard from the filthy and besotted Portia Capplethwaite. Reason why is she's been in the Big Cripple for two weeks, where, according to our spies, she's been seen making a fool of herself all over town: at Elaine's, where she terrorized waitstaff and diners with her Liza Minnelli impersonation; at Barney's, where she got into a kick fight with a gerontal theater queen over Liza's abortion quotient; and at the corner of Broadway and 42nd, where Portia was spotted one morning last week modeling her latest attempts at Jeromewear — tattered pink and lime green miniskirt, broken platforms, and a mouldering see-through plastic clutch.



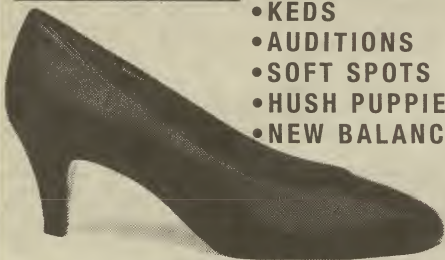
Musty Chiffon

Needless to say, we were surprised when the phone rang the other day and it was Portia on the other end, calling not from Bellevue but from a friend's apartment in fashionable Brooklyn Heights. She was just allwitter with gossip and news from Manhattan. She was most excited about a performance artist cum drag queen she saw whose name, Musty Chiffon, we must confess possesses a ring of dubious provenance. Portia, however, insists Musty is an undiscovered genius. "It's PoMo drag, and it's fabulous." Portia says she remembers Musty from way back in the late '70s (both are women of a certain age) when the singer used to perform in one of Boston's swankiest New Wave bands, Human Sexual Response. "She used to do this number where she'd sing, 'I wanna be Jackie Onassis, I wanna wear a pair of dark sunglasses.'"

Anyway, Musty is bringing her latest musical drag assemblage to Josie's next week. Be prepared for a trip down several memory lanes as Musty hauls out tunes like Jefferson Airplane's "White Rabbit" and Steppenwolf's "Magic Carpet Ride" from the '60s and even delves into the world of Kurt Weill and Rodgers and Hammerstein. The show opens Oct. 29 and runs through Nov. 3. For tix, call 861-7933. ▼

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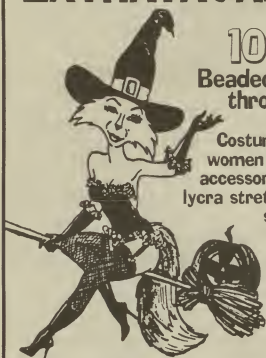
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PlanetOut

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news updates, chat rooms and message boards divided up by demographics, interests and geography.

The bulk of what PlanetOut does, however, is bring together resources already available in one user-friendly place. Online versions of print magazines like *Curve*, *XY* and *InsideOut*, shopping in the Tzabaco catalog, comic strips like *Dykes to Watch Out For* and home pages for the larger national gay organizations are all featured, as well as extensive archives and directories of links to thousands of other gay websites. It's a slick, centralized entry point into queer cyberspace, a postmodern Grand Central Station where people can shop, meet and look around, but most importantly go elsewhere once they arrive.

It's a small world

"The operative word is community," says Rielly. "Many gay and lesbian people live outside major gay communities, and we wanted to bring the community to them."

"Whether I'm living in San Francisco or Columbus, Ohio, or rural Podunk where I'm the only one, I'm not alone," says Scott Walton, executive director of Digital Queers, which is not formally associated with PlanetOut. "And in reality, even in San Francisco, for some people it creates another opportunity to connect with people."

"PlanetOut becomes important because it bridges a gap," Walton continues. "It takes the diversity and depth of the web and blends it with the community sense of an AOL or a joinable entity, so it becomes easy to explore the vast variety and yet connect with people within a community. In that sense, it's nothing new, but what they're doing is bringing aspects of this technology together in a new way."

Rielly stresses that PlanetOut is interactive and social, a whole universe more dynamic than an online magazine. "We're really not in competition with print magazines," he says. But so far, some of the major gay national titles — like *Out* or the *Advocate*, who have their own websites — have been reluctant to link into PlanetOut, seeing that there is indeed competition in the realm of advertising; PlanetOut's potential audience could easily dwarf any gay print magazine's circulation. Wickre admits to her longtime addition to print media, and argues that while there may be some



PlanetOut's Tom Rielly

rivalry over audiences and advertisers, a website can never replace newspapers or magazines.

"The limitations are that no computer is as portable as a magazine," Wickre says. "If you want to have an intellectual, emotional experience with a magazine, this is harder. If you're able to sit at a screen, this provides a richer context than a reading experience does by itself. The web is very rich in terms of touching off things that aren't linear and [which] don't exist next to each other naturally."

PlanetOut has attracted significant venture capital from corpo-

PlanetOut since its Gay and Lesbian Community Forum (GLCF) is among its most popular attractions. Serving hundreds of thousands of gay customers has not only made AOL a comfortable home for many gay net-surfers, it has also made gay dollars an important source of revenue for AOL.

"One of the things that has kept AOL responding to the GLCF is [that] they were for a long time their top entity," says Walton. And, he says, it is precisely this logic — that gays and lesbians are big business in cyberspace — that will likely draw their continued support to PlanetOut.

As with any commercial venture, mainstream advertisers are nervous about being associated with anything particularly risqué. Given all the media hype about pornography on the Internet, some advertisers are sure to make demands restricting content.

"We won't have a top screen with naked hunks parading," says Wickre, but such screens will be available for those willing to dig deeper. "That'll be in an area that's already been identified, and probably American Airlines won't want to advertise there. But that's not really much of a restriction."

Advertisers' concerns aside, America Online itself has fairly stringent standards of decency; nude photographs, for example,

"We'll point to queer sites on the Internet," says Rielly. "We want to be your dashboard to the Internet."

are not permitted in AOL's libraries. Rielly maintains that such restrictions won't be insurmountable.

"Our AOL site is more PG-13, versus our website, which is more R-rated, but that can be very academic late at night when people are talking," says Rielly. "Almost all content is available on both sides."

Content that is not available directly through AOL, says Rielly, can be accessed indirectly by linking from PlanetOut's AOL site into their website. As for R-rated content, Rielly says that while such material won't be found in PlanetOut itself, PlanetOut will point to other sites where other kinds of content are available.

"We're not going after the porn market," says Rielly. "But we point to every queer site on the Internet, even the ones we disagree with, because the whole idea is that we should be your dashboard to the Internet."

PG-13

In addition to being a model cyber-community, America Online is a promising location for

are not permitted in AOL's libraries. Rielly maintains that such restrictions won't be insurmountable.

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Popcorn Q is nuts & bolts beneath the glitz

by Glen Helfand

As part of its splashy premiere campaign last summer, the producers of Popcorn Q printed up a full-color poster designed to look like something out of Hollywood in the 1930s. On it there's an illustration of glamorous gay and lesbian couples working '30s evening drag. Yellow lines suggesting the glare of klieg lights frame the figures, and popcorn kernels burst excitedly from the center of the Popcorn Q logo. All this visual excitement suggests we can expect thrills, chills, and same-sex kisses in this, "The Ultimate Online Home for the Queer Moving Image."

Now don't get too worked up. Popcorn Q is not a Hollywood blockbuster, it's a website. Like most things on the Internet, the experience of Popcorn Q (at <http://www.popcornq.com>) is not as exhilarating as its publicity promises, which is not to say it doesn't have something to offer, only that it doesn't warrant such a glitzy premiere.

Launched last June by queer film scholar Jenni Olson, whose book *The Ultimate Guide to Lesbian & Gay Film and Video* provides much of its content, Popcorn Q is more a resource than an entertainment vehicle. The site features reviews of thousands of lesbian and gay film titles along with information about the productions (vital statistics and print resources). The database is frequently updated to include new theatrical and video releases, and visitors can perform searches to find that special movie. Films can be retrieved by titles, directors, and subjects, which are broken down into categories like History/Herstory, Body Issues, Camp, Jewish Images, Romance, Sports/Leisure, and the ever-popular Erotica/Porn section.

Films are also logged by country. Users can cross-reference to find flicks dealing with, say, sex work in Sao Paulo, select from a list of titles displayed, and get a capsule review along with pertinent information on the film. Sometimes, though not always, the page includes a still from the film. Video clips are not included.

The international emphasis has worked well. Olson reports the site received 20,000 visitors a day for its first two weeks, and they came from 75 different countries. For those who live where there are no video stores, the listings include distribution sources and a link to a home video mail-order service. San Francisco residents may find this useful before trucking over to Tower.

Popcorn Q is broken into areas for film fans and film professionals. In a hopefully ironic use of stereotypes in the screen graphics, the dashing men from the poster are the icons for the professional section, while the women represent fans. Currently, professionals get a better deal. Filmmakers, festival programmers, producers, directors and academics can find lots of information in a "massive resource listing" that includes guidelines, dates, and other vitals for over 80 international lesbian and gay festivals. There are also extensive, if barely annotated, book listings, and a media professionals section where working filmmakers, writers, and tech people can e-schmooze. As an added



The Popcorn Q area of PlanetOut sports a beautiful interface.

inducement the site comes with lists of top ten favorite films chosen by lesbian and gay film professionals. The lists are interesting, but most of the people who chose

them are obscure figures (festival programmers and independent filmmakers) known primarily to queer film aficionados.

True to the still-evolving medi-



Jenni Olson, producer of Popcorn Q.

um, Popcorn Q has its share of bugs, but its integration into PlanetOut deflects many of them by giving it a larger context. Olson promises more visual flourishes in

the near future, including video clips and an online exhibition of her film poster collection. Until then just keep telling yourself: "It's only a website." ▼

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Sea devils

Edward Albee's 'Seascape'

by Jerry Metzker

A third Pulitzer Prize two years ago for *Three Tall Women* has created renewed interest in the work of playwright Edward Albee. His first Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *A Delicate Balance*, was recently revived on Broadway, he was one of the first playwrights to be asked to contribute to the Magic Theatre's *Pieces of the Quilt*, and the Aurora Theatre in Berkeley opened its season last week with Albee's other Pulitzer winner, *Seascape*.

Although Albee has been openly gay throughout his writing career, he's been criticized by many for rarely spotlighting gay characters in his work. While it would be ill-advised to blithely dismiss this criticism of the playwright, it is ultimately inaccurate to say that homosexuality does not resonate in his writing. In director Barbara Oliver's sensitive and intelligent production of *Seascape*, heterosexual union comes under the kind of intense scrutiny that could only be trained on it by an outsider.

The play begins placidly, with the introduction of a rather banal middle-aged couple relaxing on a sand dune. Nancy (Carla Spindt) is an annoying chatterbox, her husband Charlie (Michael Santo) an insensitive dullard. In the play's first half, the couple speaks at each other from two completely different and seemingly irreconcilable perspectives. Charlie wants to relax into old age; Nancy wants to revisit their exciting youth. In other words, she's a chipper live wire; he's a stick in the mud. The curiosity here is how two people with such different emotional needs could possibly stay married so long, even raise a family together,



Carla Spindt, Nancy Carlin, Howard Swain and Michael Santo.

er, without killing each other. This is heterosexual union at its worst.

But Albee is not content to let the play stay on this level. The extraordinary quality of his plays lies in their often subtle blending of realism and absurdity. Using these elements, the playwright typically indicates that not all is as it seems, that if you look closely between the cracks in our realism-driven world there is a whole other reality to be explored.

In *Seascape* Albee is a little less subtle than usual in addressing this other reality. Here, he cuts to the chase by introducing another couple on the beach. Leslie (Howard Swain) and Sarah (Nancy Carlin) are two lizard-like creatures who have just crawled out of the ocean. Life under water no longer interests them, and they've decided to come ashore to explore uncharted territory. For the balance of the play Albee uses Leslie and Sarah to dig deep into the stagnant lives of Nancy and Charlie.

The play is as funny as it is intermittently serious and confrontational. Still, when Albee tears

at our conventionality and hapless consumerism, it's done with sensitivity and humor. We are not made to feel put-upon or belittled by these creatures from the deep, instead we're fascinated by what they find interesting in humankind.

Barbara Oliver's direction is sensitive and detailed. She navigates these often choppy waters deftly, making the absurd elements seem almost plausible, yet still, and very appropriately, strange.

The acting is terrific. Spindt is annoying, Santo is suitably grumpy, Swain's Leslie is overloaded with a kind of barbaric but perfect machismo, and Carlin is supremely curious as Sarah. In the Aurora's tiny space at the Berkeley City Club, the production elements bring the play almost literally into the laps of the audience. This production is everything good theater should be. ▼

Seascape continues through November 10 at the Berkeley City Club. Call 1-510-843-4822 for tickets and information.

Hytner's 'Carousel' doesn't dig deep

by Chad Jones

You want to leave a production of *Carousel* exclaiming, "Well, that was a real nice clambake!" But the best that can be said for the Broadway touring production currently at the Golden Gate Theatre is that it's barely a clambake at all. In the battle between the sleek, evocative sets and the struggling performers, the sets win.

Produced by the Royal National Theatre of Great Britain, this revamped and invigorated version of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein's *Carousel* was a huge hit in both London and New York, where sophisticated artistic design (by Bob Crowley) was matched by powerful performances. Unfortunately, in the transition to touring production, much of this balance has been lost. Crowley's production design — simple but bold New England colors and strong images that waver between ominous and dingy waterfront to a striking vision of heaven run by Quakers — has been adapted nicely for the tour, but the cast is not nearly as strong.

Director Nicholas Hytner's vision for this *Carousel* was to release it from the sugar-coated purgatory it inhabited since the release of the sanitized movie version in 1956. Rodgers and Ham-



Sarah Uriarte and Patrick Wilson in *Carousel*.

merstein used Ferenc Molnar's 1921 play *Liliom* as their inspiration for a musical about, among other things, wife and child abuse, suicide, murder, theft, small-town propriety and redemption. The movie bypasses the shadowy texture of the show and just presents colorful versions of hit songs like "If I Loved You" and "You'll Never Walk Alone." Hytner's re-tooling of *Carousel* emphasizes the darkness of the original production, and his bold re-design removes the show from the realm of cute musical theater kitsch and attempts to imbue it with a much

more seriously artistic — almost operatic — sensibility.

Watching this touring production it's easy to see what Hytner had in mind, but the uneven quality of the cast keeps his ambitious goals at bay. The singing is strong throughout, although the over-amplified miking in the hangar-like Golden Gate reduces beautiful human voices to reverberating blasts of synthesized mush.

Rebecca Eichenberger as the matronly Nettie Fowler turns in a masterful "You'll Never Walk Alone," and Sherry D. Boone as the energetic Carrie Pipperidge has a lovely, lilting voice perfectly suited for "Mr. Snow." Sarah Uriarte as Julie Jordan, the heroine, and Patrick Wilson as Billy Bigelow, the no-good carousel barker who forever alters her life, are more problematic. Both are able vocalists, but as actors, they aren't able to sink into the complexity of their characters. The brilliance of Hammerstein's writing, especially in Billy and Julie's courtship scene, cries out for full-bodied actors, but in this production we have to be content with beautiful sets filled with able singers who know all their lines. ▼

Carousel continues at the Golden Gate Theatre through Nov. 10. Call 776-1999 for information.

DANCE

Evocation of despair

'Dark Elegies' highlight of Oakland Ballet

by Matthew Kennedy

The second program of the Oakland Ballet's fall season, unveiled last week at the Paramount Theatre, unequivocally demonstrates the company's ongoing commitment to eclecticism. The three pieces presented, Ron Thiele's *Diversions*, Anthony Tudor's *Dark Elegies*, and Val Caniparoli's *Bow Out*, are about as different as they can be and still be performed by the same company. Perhaps it's time to stop being surprised that Oakland Ballet is so good and simply revel in its commitment to superb reconstructions, sassy contemporary work, and standard classics. Is there anything this company can't dance?

Diversions opened the program. The work, set to Benjamin Britten's *Diversions for Piano Left Hand and Orchestra*, begins with men in blood red tights, a color echoed among the female dancers by a splash of red fabric sewn into their otherwise off-white dresses. A passage of quiet distinction comes early in the piece, allowing for lilted, lovely duets and trios. One couple (Erricka Turner and Michael Lowe) danced a standard *pas de deux* as two men (Ben Barnhart and Mario Alonzo) danced in complete unison to each other. Occasionally, Lowe broke away to join other men, only to return to Turner. After eons of silly ballets in which men vie for the attention of one woman, it's refreshing to see guys presenting a sweet sexual ambiguity.

Diversions' dances continued to unveil as a series of duets, trios and quartets. "Burlesque" differs from *Diversions'* other dances in its bent-knee, fast-glancing rhythms. Oakland Ballet has a number of sylphid, swan-necked women, and they were used to excellent advantage throughout this work. The end, which utilizes the full ensemble of six, vigorously punctuates the preceding, quieter segments, and it was well-executed here. Light but not innocuous, *Diversions* offers pleasure as it unfolds, but there is little to contemplate when it's over.

Bow Out, the evening's closing dance, is a cool, sexy bon bon from San Francisco Ballet stalwart Val Caniparoli. With all the gender-bending going on, it could have come across as a tired, self-satisfied exercise, but Caniparoli saves the day with bold, shrewdly-deployed movement phrases, expertly handled by the dancers last week. Everyone was in black, women in leotards and sheer tights, men in slacks and open jackets over bare torsos. When the men bounced around in their unfinished corporate drag, they looked like a gaggle of insane lawyers.

Next, the women donned jackets and pants and began dancing on pointe. The effect was eerie. Momentarily, the women looked more like spinning tops than humans, and when the men showed up in nothing more than skimpy briefs and jazz shoes, the effect was combustible. Near-naked men alongside cross-dressed women is a novel idea even in the most adventurous ballet companies.

Near the end, lighting designer Lisa Pinkham trained three lights into the audience, rendering us harshly while the dancers turned

Ron Thiele's *Diversions*.

into silhouettes. The confrontations were inexplicable but not ineffectual; it recalled the "bad boy" work of British choreographers Michael Clarke and William Forsythe. By next year it could look gratuitous, but for now it's fun. The absence of pandering and the vigorous machine-like arm gestures kept it mesmerizing, as did the Philip Glassish score of Roy Powell and David Bedford.

The big event of the evening was the company premiere of Anthony Tudor's widely respected *Dark Elegies*, first performed in London by Ballet Rambert in 1937. The piece, set to Gustav Mahler's *Kindertotenlieder*, has been staged and directed for the Oakland Ballet by Tudor expert Sallie Wilson. The live musical accompaniment was provided by pianist Ayako Isono and baritone Douglas Nagel. Set against a cold, wind-swept exterior in Eastern Europe, the dance is a lamentation on the death of children. The dancers are appropriately ob-

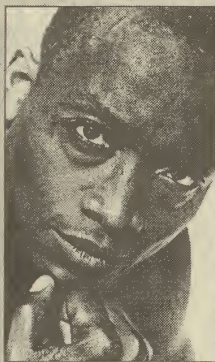
sessed and regimented, and the dances they make are a cruel mockery of the celebratory line and circle folk dances of the region. The routine geometry is disturbed by a collapsing body, a face buried in hands, or eyes lifted upward, as if seeking explanation. For Tudor, the evocation of despair comes before ego. The dancers must create an internal world of misery that rises to the surface only through acting, not standard technique.

Dark Elegies is a somber but powerful work. It is plotless but hardly meaningless. The abundance of circles and lines gives the work a tribal unity and dreadful calm. No wonder it was Tudor's favorite work among his efforts. He made unerringly superb choreographic decisions in the piece. By minimizing bravura dance, he universalized the expression of grief, and by rendering it plotless he highlighted the inexplicability of death and, by extension, life. ▼

Bill T. Jones still here

Dancer/choreographer Bill T. Jones (right) brings two distinct dance programs to Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley Oct. 25 & 26 (8 p.m.). Jones himself will perform in three works: *Sur la Place* and *Ursonate*, on Friday, Oct. 25; and *Ballad* on Saturday, Oct. 26. *Sur La Place* is a trio choreographed to the music of Jacques Brel, and *Ursonate* is a group piece choreographed in collaboration with Darla Villani based on Kurt Schwitters' 1928 phonetic poem *Ursonate*. *Ballad*, based on a recording of Dylan Thomas reading his poetry, features six dancers performing to Thomas' "Ballad of the Long-Legged Bait," "Lament, This Side of the Truth (for Llewellyn)," and "A Poem in October."

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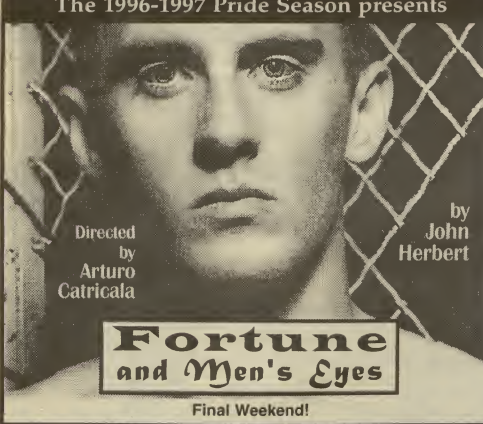
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Memories

by Roberto Friedman

Some Remarkable Men, Further Memoirs by James Lord; Farrar Straus Giroux, \$27.50

Wystan and Chester, A Personal Memoir of W.H. Auden and Chester Kallman by Thekla Clark; Columbia University Press, \$19.95

Two recently published memoirs are greatly entertaining reads, offering inside peeks into the lives and works of artistic giants with all-too-human flaws. James Lord's four-part delight recounts his friendships with the aesthete Harold Acton, flamboyant Jean Cocteau, painter Balthus, and Giacometti brothers Alberto and Diego. Thekla Clark's charming remembrance tells the story of the lifelong companionship between the great poet W.H. Auden and librettist Chester Kallman, both of whom she knew intimately. Although some of these men have already been the subject of monumental biographies, Lord's and Clark's books add a personal touch.

James Lord calls his subjects "remarkable," but the author himself must have extraordinary social gifts to have gained entrée into so many celebrity lives. "It was, and always has been, my keen desire to become acquainted with men and women who have contributed to the artistic history of my era," he tells us, and with the innocence and courage of youth he walked right up and rang Picasso's doorbell. He initiated



Clark (center) with Kallman (second from left) and Auden (far right).

friendships with the four stars of *Remarkable Men* as well, and a photograph from 1950 may offer a clue to his success: posed with the dandy Cocteau, the young Lord is the very model of the dashing homosexual. Cocteau, Balthus and Giacometti all immortalized Lord's good looks in portraits, which are dutifully reproduced in the book's picture pages.

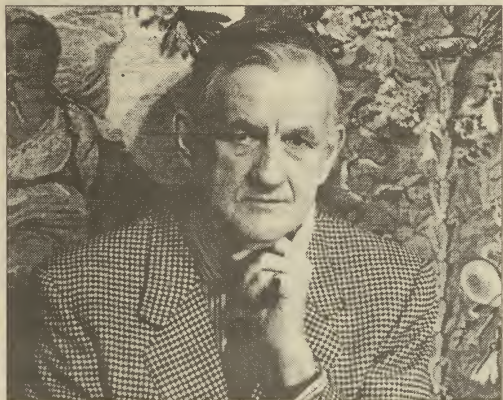
The memoirist makes no secret of his gayness and is forthcoming on his subjects' proclivities as well, even when, as in Acton's case, they were at pains to hide their sexual identity. Of Acton's interest in young boys during his years in Peking, we learn he "delighted in their silken skins and tiny penises." During his Oxford years, he "rolled about on the floor of his study in the em-

brace of" novelist Evelyn Waugh during "Waugh's brief homosexual phase." Alas, in Lord's world view, "Harold happened not to be handsome, and for a homosexual that unfortunate fact usually makes for a lifetime of emotional inferiority."

Reminiscences of Cocteau and Balthus are similarly free-wheeling (Cocteau and his humpy companion Edouard "Doudou" Dermitt are opium-addled pipeheads; Balthus effectively self-destructs under delusions of aristocracy), but Lord treats the artist Alberto Giacometti with awe and reverence. Lord made his reputation with his biography of Giacometti and related writings, and this account leaves no doubt that, from his first visit to the Giacometti studio on, he knew he was in the presence of great genius. His travails in accomplishing the biography in the face of fierce resistance from Madame Giacometti are recounted in detail and offer insight into the difficulties of that literary labor. And the scene in which Lord confronts Jean Genet over his alleged theft of a Giacometti from the artist's studio is a necessary corollary to Edmund White's account of the incident in his biography of the great French author/thief.

Thekla Clark first met W.H. Auden and Chester Kallman while on holiday on the island of Ischia and became a close confidante to both men during the course of their fruitful yet troubled companionship. Her memoir is at least in part a corrective of the only other book on the Auden/Kallman relationship, written by Chester's stepmother and understandably biased. Clark is frank and non-judgmental when she describes the men's arrangements for sex partners, which they both found among the village's young manhood. "When [Kallman] first arrived in Ischia, alone, he was taken by a local boy into the family vineyard. Once there the boy made it abundantly clear that for 500 lire (less than a dollar even then) Chester could have him and all the grapes he could eat."

Although Kallman became increasingly neurotic as his golden beauty faded, Auden seems to have been more fundamentally repressed as a homosexual (a devout Catholic, he believed homosexuality a sin). Still, the love relationship Clark portrays over the course of two decades of her friendship is as fertile and complex as any marriage. Lovers of Auden's poetry who wish to know the man behind the gift should find this book. It has the emotional honesty of letters from a cherished old friend. ▼



Author James Lord.

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Through the looking glass

Nan Goldin retrospective at the Whitney

by Steven Jenkins

I haven't hung out much with drag queens and I've never shot up, but Nan Goldin's photographs make me feel like I've been there, done that. Within moments of entering *Nan Goldin: I'll Be Your Mirror*, a mid-career retrospective of the artist's widely celebrated photographs at the Whitney Museum of American Art, I felt an uncanny sense of déjà vu, and not only because I'd seen so many of these startling documentary images many times before in exhibitions and books. Beyond my previous familiarity with the photographs, and the narrative that holds them together as a diary of Goldin's (and our) past 25 years, I was sure I recognized people, places and, most crucially, a certain atmosphere that suddenly seemed eerily evocative of personal memories and experiences. It was as if the pictures on the museum wall had been lifted from my own photo album. I'm guessing that many viewers engage Goldin's work in this manner, such is its raw power to reflect aspects of contemporary urban reality in the late 20th century.

Brutal yet poetic, unflinchingly honest and supercharged with

and her pals are glimpsed in bars, convertibles and bathrooms, in dark, cluttered apartments and in bed (alone and in pairs), dressed up and messed up. Rarely without her camera, Goldin has caught indelible moments of brazen sexuality, violent outbursts, gender-fuck role-playing, Monopoly playing, illness, self-destruction and stubborn survival.

Goldin was drawn to photography at age 18 as a means of controlling her identity in the wake of her sister's suicide. Her earliest snapshots hint at the warts-and-all candor and empathic connection with subject matter that characterize her mature work. Reacting against the era's dominant "rocks and trees" aesthetic, Goldin and her photographer friend David Armstrong (the exhibition's co-curator with the Whitney's Elisabeth Sussman) founded what she calls the "dust and scratch" school, which eschewed technical perfection and natural splendor in favor of a gritty, streetwise look and feel that best represented their surroundings on Boston's Beacon Hill.

Goldin claims that she and Armstrong were partially influenced by Andy Warhol's films from the '60s, yet her early images of scene-makers and drag queens



Cookie with me after I was punched, Baltimore, Md., 1986, by Nan Goldin

dysphoria but rather expressing gender euphoria."

Moving to New York in the late 1970s, Goldin continued to hone her documentary style by investigating the dark corners of her East Village milieu. Following in the footsteps of postwar New York School photographers such as Garry Winogrand, Robert Frank and Diane Arbus (though without

the latter's nudge-and-wink freak show condescension), Goldin perfected a from-the-hip method that infuses her color-saturated portraits with poignant immediacy.

Throughout the next decade Goldin frequently displayed her photographs in the format of an ever-evolving slide show set to music, which she named *The Bal-*

lad of Sexual Dependency, after a Kurt Weill tune from Bertolt Brecht's *The Threepenny Opera*. The slide show was originally presented in clubs and acclaimed by Goldin's peers and art world pundits alike as a moving document of the sex, drugs, rock 'n' roll lifestyle and the desire for meaningful relationships. Described by Goldin as

page 49 ►



David at Grove Street, Boston, 1973, by Nan Goldin.

color and sensuality, Goldin's provocative portraits, self-portraits, landscapes and interiors hit hard in this abundant survey, one that is sure to confirm the artist's unique standing in the long tradition of documentary photography. Presented chronologically, the photographs trace Goldin's inextricably linked personal and professional evolution while simultaneously recording the dizzying parties, solitary pouts, and tragic crash landings of her friends, lovers and fellow underground denizens in Boston, New York, Berlin and Tokyo. Goldin

(whom she thought were beautiful enough to adorn the cover of *Vogue*) never resort to the marketing-savvy sensationalism in which Warhol indulged in his quest to turn hangers-on of dubious talent into superstars. Enamored of their transgressive styles and attitudes, Goldin simply photographed her friends at home and at The Other Side, a neighborhood gay bar. In wall text that appears later in the exhibition Goldin explains, "As a bisexual person, the third gender seems to me to be ideal. These pictures are not of people suffering gender

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Gay musicians

◀ Arts cover

ing out, what exactly do they have in common? What unites their work as "gay music?"

Even putting aside the issue of multiple genres, there are definite splits in the world of gay music. One group includes major artists who came out after their careers took off, like k.d. lang, the Pet Shop Boys, or Elton John. A second group includes openly gay artists who are trying to join the major leagues, like Catie Curtis, Extra Fancy, or Gregory Gray. Finally, there are the openly gay artists who have recorded music for years without aspirations of major radio exposure or "crossover" record contracts, like Romanovsky and Phillips, Cris Williamson, or the Lavender Light choir. Which group is GLAMA striving to represent?

"There's a place for all of them in GLAMA," says McCormack's business partner, GLAMA co-creator Michael Mitchell. The nominees — from Melissa Etheridge to John Buccichino — do reflect that diversity. "Tom and I created GLAMA to be a place to come out into, a place for people to say [they are making] openly gay music."

Defining "gay music" is like trying to solve the riddle of the Sphinx; just when it becomes clear what gay music is, contrary examples leap to mind and the entire subject becomes muddled once again. If gay music is defined by the performers, then Tom Robinson's "2-4-6-8 Motorway" is just as gay as his "Glad to be Gay." If it's defined by lyrics, then straight rocker Billy Bragg's "Sexuality" is gay music and Erasure's "A Little Respect" is not. If audience reception is the determining factor, then Diana Ross' "Love Hangover" is as gay as the Village People's "Macho Man."

"It's a difficult thing to get your hands around," Mitchell admits. "I think [the discussion] is going to make a lot of people uncomfortable, and I think it's okay. As a culture, we really love to put things in boxes and define them, but for a while as we define this it's going to be difficult."



Romanovsky & Phillips

In the meantime, GLAMA defines gay music as that which is made by artists who are openly gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered; in the case of a band, at least one member must fit the bill. To avoid outing musicians who aren't openly gay, or meeting resistance from hesitant record companies, GLAMA relies on industry nominations from artists, managers, or labels. Judges chosen from all aspects of the music industry then pick the finalists and the winners. In order to deal with songs that specifically address issues of sexuality, a separate content-based category — Best Out Recording — has been set up in addition to the awards based on performance alone.

GLAMA, therefore, has the difficult job of blurring such simplistic labels as "gay music" even as it constructs the very same cubbyholes. McCormack acknowledges that trying to set up a new category of music involves uncomfortable definitions, but he thinks it's a necessary starting point in promoting gay artists.

"Although I'm not a big fan of labels, it's inevitable that in order

to take that first step, you have to identify what potential marketing points there might be," says McCormack. "We're trying to get the music industry to recognize that there's a market here."

The industry is indeed waking up to the gay market. Last year, Atlantic Records appointed Peter Galvin to the first position aimed at marketing gay music — Vice President of Product Development/Gay Markets. Other companies are starting to follow suit. And while Galvin's job involves promoting all kinds of music to gay audiences — as opposed to GLAMA's complementary but different goal of promoting gay musicians to all audiences — he's still standing firmly behind GLAMA's ambitions.

"We need a gay and lesbian awards show to bring attention to openly gay and lesbian artists so that someday we won't need it," says Galvin, who thinks the ultimate goal is to gain greater inclusion in mainstream award shows. GLAMA is the necessary first step, he says, echoing McCormack.

In explaining his ideal model

next page ▶

Ru stalls

RuPaul, *Foxy Lady* (Rhino Records)

When compared to his other creative endeavors — acting in big-budget Hollywood comedies, hosting a cable TV chat show — RuPaul's recording career is something of an afterthought. Or at least that's what one could surmise from the thought and effort that seem to have gone into his latest album, *Foxy Lady*. The record, made up of Hi-NRG dance tunes, mid-tempo love songs, and even some Latin pop, mines mid-to-late '80s Top 40, but not in an ironic, revivalist way. When he mimics "La Isla Bonita"-era Madonna on "Delores," singing Spanglish in a laughable accent, the tone is completely reverent. He's less straight-faced on "R.U. Nasty," which promises to be a parody of Janet Jackson's "Nasty Boys" but isn't sharp or funny enough.

On "R.U. Nasty," RuPaul merely repeats a dumb chorus over a weak groove, a stylistic tack he takes too often over the course of the album. Song structure isn't given much consideration here, and neither are lyrics. Of course, when Ru's at a loss for a line he just lets loose with some of his favorite aphorisms: "Everybody say love!" or "You better work!" which is, apparently, a radical updating of his familiar "We're going to work it!" And any queen should be struck down dead for uttering, "Go girl!"

Just as RuPaul's last album, 1993's *Supermodel of the World*, had one track to recommend it, "Back to My Roots," a paean to black hair and its limitless styling options, *Foxy Lady* has one worthwhile cut in "If You Were a Woman and I Was a Man." Musically the song isn't much, but the lyrics, which address the fluidity of gender roles in straight relationships, and, implicitly, role playing in queer couplings, are surprisingly thoughtful. This track is proof that RuPaul is capable of decent songwriting when he's not dumbing himself down to conform to outmoded conventions of yesterday's pop. ▼

—John Blanco



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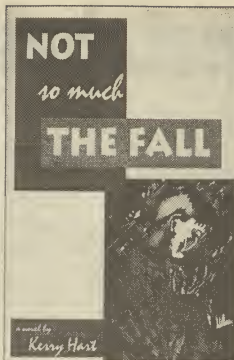
by Deborah Peifer

Not So Much the Fall by Kerry Hart; Third Side, \$12.95

Here is a first novel that is stunning in its originality. Kerry Hart is a writer to watch, and *Not So Much the Fall* is a novel to savor.

The plot, which is both vital and completely unimportant, has to do with Casey and her decision to move from and later return to Memphis. On the way around, Casey finds love, loses same, becomes a therapist and a drug addict, faces her demons, and runs from them.

What makes this novel so astonishing is its structure. *Not So Much the Fall* is the first stream of consciousness novel I've ever read that has the real feel of the flow of a mind in torment. It is, if you will, an unself-conscious stream of consciousness.



What makes the novel work is that Casey is always in the moment, so we are able to stay with her, even as the narrative moves back and forth in time and space. Hart provides just enough information to establish time and place, then allows her narrator to explore her memories and feelings.

Not So Much the Fall is not an artsy-fartsy piece of self-indulgence. Hart creates real characters we learn to care about, deeply. She also has a wonderful

sense of irony. Consider this scene, following the death of Casey's mother. Casey has explained to Martin that she wants to leave Memphis, but doesn't know where to go. After a discussion of what she's looking for, Martin suggests Seattle. "Where's Seattle?" "It's in Washington State." "Where's Washington State?" He pointed into the air, up and to the left. "Way up in the northwest corner." He was talking to me like I was a baby. I wasn't stupid - I was a theatre major. There is a difference."

It's not so much the fall. It's the sudden stop. Casey is a woman whose life is filled with perilous falls and crash landings. Her ability to recover from them, over and over, is a wonder to behold.

Kerry Hart has created an astonishing novel, one that rewards the reader. *Not So Much the Fall* will make you laugh and cry and think and feel, and while you're doing all that, you'll admire the technique of an extraordinary writer. ▼

Hairbrained

by Deborah Peifer

The History of Lesbian Hair by Mary Dugger; Main Street Books, \$10.95

I'm going to save you the \$10.95 Main Street Books wants for this pretty skimpy, not terribly amusing book by quoting the funny line. Mary Dugger suggests that a future graduate student will receive a doctorate "based on her disserta-



tion, 'Lesbians in the 21st Century: Were They All Detectives?'

Yes, that's right, one funny line. Of course in only 111 pages, many of them consisting of not at all funny illustrations, I suppose one funny line is a pretty good ratio. Seems like a lot for \$11, though.

Dugger starts with the obligatory "Are you a lesbian?" quiz, but

that's been done, a lot, and better, by other writers. She talks at length about hair, but again her comments are neither insightful nor amusing. *The History of Lesbian Hair* is the kind of book straight people who haven't read anything lesbian, ever, may find amusing, but for the rest of us, it's a big yawn. ▼

Gay musicians

◀ previous page

of how gay music could be promoted, McCormack uses the analogy of Christian music, which, like gay music, crosses all musical genres and is similarly difficult to pinpoint. Over the past decade, with the help of a few key crossover stars, Christian music has blossomed into a niche with major label support and a separate department in music stores. But to avoid pigeonholing artists into this new sub-genre, Christian music promoters cross-reference their artists, so a Christian rock album also shows up in the rock section, while Christian country music winds up alongside other

country music. McCormack hopes to build a similarly cross-referenced niche of gay and lesbian music, both separate and integrated at the same time.

The awards, meanwhile, should provide a higher profile for gay artists by legitimating the often unrecognized work these musicians have done.

"You have a group of people who have been ignored and sometimes abused because of their identity and what they were representing," says McCormack.

"There was no way for gay and lesbian people to be recognized for the music they were making," Mitchell adds. "There needs to be a way to acknowledge people who are really out and breaking new ground and paying their dues." ▼

OBITUARY

Isabel Miller, 1924-1996

Alma Routsong, a.k.a. Isabel Miller, author of the classic lesbian novel, *Patience & Sarah*, died October 4, 1996 in Poughkeepsie, New York, after a long struggle with cancer.

Routsong was born November 26, 1924 in Traverse City, Michigan. After military service in the Navy, she enrolled on the GI Bill at Michigan State University, where she met her husband, Bruce Brodie. The prefab student housing they were forced to live in supplied the setting for her first novel, *A Gradual Joy*, which was published in 1953 by Houghton, Mifflin. In a review in the *New York Times*, J.D. Paulus called it "light, airy, talky, and...top grade for its kind." Ironically, for someone who was to become a militant lesbian, this work was often cited as a manual for a successful (heterosexual) marriage.

With her royalties from the book, she and her husband were able to buy a house of their own, and though the couple had four daughters, Routsong somehow found time to write a second novel, *Round Shape* (1959).

In 1962, after meeting Elizabeth Deran, Routsong divorced her husband and moved to Washington, where Ms. Deran was working in a government bureau. But in that era of witch hunts, Ms. Deran was soon fired when it was discovered that she was a lesbian.

The following year, the two women settled in Greenwich Village, where they pursued occult studies, which ultimately served as the inspiration for Routsong's next novel, *A Place for Us*, the story of two women in early America who fall in love and build a life for themselves despite the odds.

Even in the freewheeling '60s, no publisher would touch the book, and in 1969, with Deran's help, Routsong published a small edition of the book herself using the pseudonym Isabel Miller. The novel quickly found an enthusiastic readership, prompting McGraw Hill to publish it in 1972 under the title *Patience & Sarah*. The book has remained in print ever since, both in the U.S. and abroad.

Routsong published three more books, all with Naiad Press: *The Love of Good Women* (1986), *Side by Side* (1990), and *A Dooryard Full of Flowers* (1993). Another novel, *Laurel*, will be released this fall. The day before her death, an opera based on *Patience & Sarah*, by Wende Persons and Paula Kimper, was performed at Trinity Church in Manhattan. ▼

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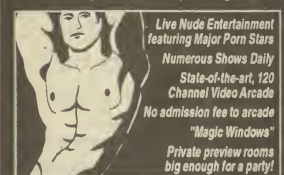
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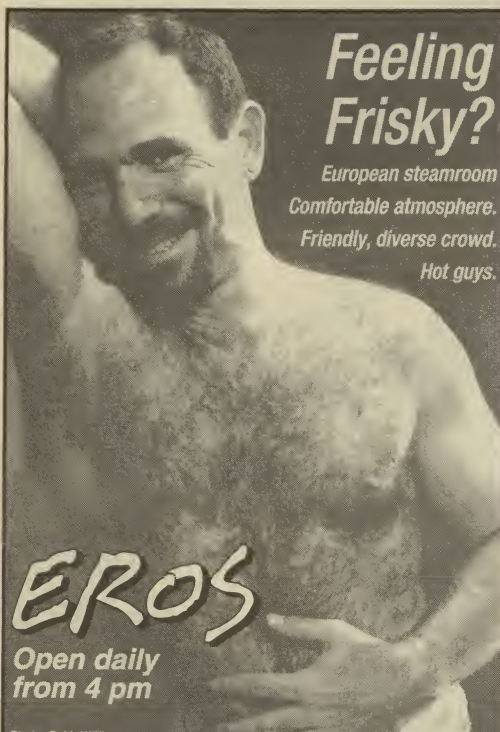
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Bold dispatches

by Philip Campbell

Indian summer is definitely gone and the days are growing short. But three new compact disc releases will help warm up those chilly nights with some superior music-making.



Jennifer Larmore

Jennifer Larmore, *Call Me Mister* (Teldec)

Mezzo-soprano Jennifer Larmore may be famed as much for her elegant good looks as for her beautiful voice, but now that she has posed for the cover of her new album in a pin-striped suit and stuck a cigar between her teeth,

she may yet be famous for something altogether different.

Call Me Mister, a collection of pants role arias, is certainly a candidate for the cleverest record concept of the year. It's also a thoroughly satisfying vehicle for Larmore's remarkable talent. Grouped by languages, this disc gives the lion's share to Italian "travesty" parts, but I think most listeners will agree that the French arias fare best. Larmore has the facility and pitch to easily navigate the florid bel canto parts, but she lacks the artistic maturity to infuse them with interest. Intensity of expression is not her forte.

Conductor Carlo Rizzi leads the Welsh National Orchestra in carefully measured and beautifully recorded performances, but his support is ultimately routine, which doesn't help Larmore much in the Italian numbers. Despite the banal accompaniment, the two Rossini arias — "Oh patria! ... Di tanti palpiti" from *Tancredi*, and "Mura felici" from *La donna del lago* — are spectacular, and an aria from Tchaikovsky's *La pucelle d'Orleans* is gorgeous.



Sumi Jo

Sumi Jo, *Sumi Jo sings Mozart*, English Chamber Orchestra/Kenneth Montgomery (Erato)

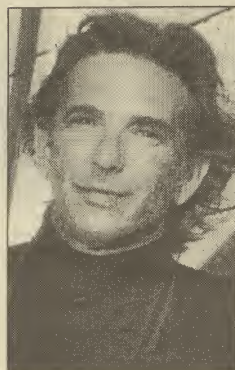
Korean soprano Sumi Jo is becoming more well-known with her third compact disc release, but she remains, inexplicably, one of the best kept secrets in opera.

Sample any cut off her new all-Mozart album and prepare to be dazzled. Her faultless tone and breathtaking agility put one in mind of the young Sutherland or Sills.

I confess to liking Mozart's concert arias least among his glorious works, but Jo's artistry is enough to startle me into appreciation. Of course, the opera arias are instantly familiar, but the singing is fresh enough to bring vital revelations.

Ms. Jo is also blessed with a wonderful conductor in Kenneth Montgomery. He culls some exquisite playing from the English

Chamber Orchestra, and the engineers win mention for achieving discreet but sympathetic balances throughout.



Michael Tilson Thomas

Michael Tilson Thomas, *Copland the Modernist*, San Francisco Symphony/Garrick Ohlsson, piano (RCA Victor Red Seal)

While most guys his age are going through their mid-life crisis, Michael Tilson Thomas is living proof that staying young means staying busy, doing work that you love.

Tilson Thomas' second release for RCA Victor is another smash success, one that will surely win new friends for the San Francisco Symphony, and more importantly, for Aaron Copland, a composer many listeners have yet to discover.

Hearing these snappy and youthful works, which are full of big ideas and a young man's bravado, I can't help but wonder at their current neglect. Tilson Thomas is comfortable with the rhythms and jazzy dissonances of these pieces, aspects of the works that seem idiomatic of what some have called Copland's American sound. It's also fun to hear where Leonard Bernstein did some tasteful cribbing for the opening of *West Side Story*, and how Stravinsky must have both thrilled and influenced the young Copland.

The album begins with the jaunty *Concerto for Piano and Orchestra*, played with no-little brio by Garrick Ohlsson, and proceeds with a very congenial and illuminating *Orchestral Variations*. The *Short Symphony* (Symphony No. 2) shows the Stravinskian model, but the closing *Symphonic Ode* is pure Copland: bombastic yet good-natured and brilliantly scored.

All praise to Tilson Thomas for carrying on his trend with recording 20th century works, and for holding our hand while we venture into the thornier territory of one of this country's most beloved composers. By the way, check out the picture of MTT on the cover of this album — it's not likely we'll ever see the Maestro in a Hawaiian shirt again! ▼

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ART



Kenny in his room, NYC, 1979, by Nan Goldin.

Nan Goldin

◀ page 45

"The diary I let people read," the version of *Ballad* in the Whitney show is undoubtedly the exhibition's highlight. Consisting of nearly 700 slides that flash by to the accompaniment of opera arias, James Brown, Bronski Beat and the Velvet Underground, *Ballad* is a brilliant montage that alternates between bright and dim, hopeful and doomed. Images of flirtatious fun, hand jobs, marriage, pregnancy and parenthood dissolve into pictures of menace, drug and domestic abuse, and too-early death. After the last slide flashes by, viewers are left in darkness to mourn the losses to which Goldin gives such eloquent testimony.

To cop a Lou Reed title (one of Goldin's professed heroes), a blend of magic and loss dominates *Ballad* and much else in the

exhibition, from an intimate series of Goldin's close friend Cookie Mueller (whom she calls "the most fabulous woman I'd ever seen") that ends in Mueller's death from AIDS, to similarly bleak but dignified portraits of other friends ravaged by the disease. Goldin's work that deals with AIDS puts her in company with contemporary artists such as Bill Jacobson and David Wojnarowicz, who through photography have eulogized the dead and reckoned with the polarities of Eros and Thanatos.

Equally effective are a wall of hotel room interiors—sites of one night stands with dirty sheets and no goodbyes—and some European landscapes that demonstrate Goldin's dexterity with natural light. Perhaps best of all are the plethora of self-portraits that reveal the artist in many guises. One image, *Nan one month after being battered*, in which the artist's face is

disfigured and her eyes bloodshot following a relationship-ending attack from scary, magnetic Brian (seen in many other images), takes self-portraiture to an almost uncomfortable level, where Goldin's brave refusal to remain a silent victim hits up against her tendency towards exhibitionism, obviously a factor in the work of such a self-reflexive diarist.

Generous, sobering, and emotionally draining, *Nan Goldin: I'll Be Your Mirror* succeeds in reinstating credibility to the life-imitates-art cliché because Goldin insistently grounds her art in the stuff of everyday existence. There is a certain irony to be found in viewing photographs that bleed from downtown wounds in the tony, uptown Whitney—imagine Mark I. Chester's explicit SoMA-based *Diary of a Thought Criminal* photographs on display at the de Young—but ultimately Goldin's work has such across-the-board appeal in part because she understands that the specifics of locale do not constrain the universality of longing. Goldin holds up her cracked looking glass, and in its fragmented reflections we see ourselves. ▼

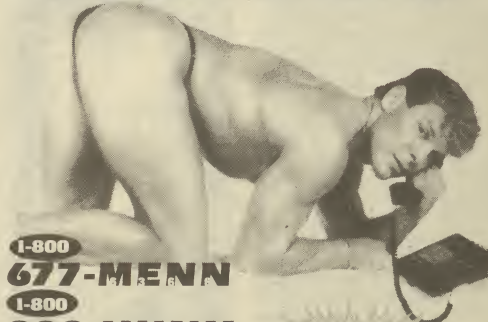
Nan Goldin: I'll Be Your Mirror is on view at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York through January 5, 1997. Call (212)-570-3633 for information.

Steve Jenkins is a San Francisco-based cultural critic and editor.



Kathleen at the Bowery Bar, NYC, 1995, by Nan Goldin.

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Portrait of Julian LaTrobe, 1991, by Steven Arnold.

Titillating tableaux

by John F. Karr

Steven Arnold's *Exotic Tableaux* edited by Peter Weiermair; Edition Stemmler, \$49.95

My favorite book of photographs since the elegant kitsch of Gianni Versace's *Men Without Ties* last year — and perhaps my favorite collection of photographs, period — is this Edition Stemmler volume of Steven Arnold's photos edited by Peter Weiermair.

Steven Arnold, who was born in Berkeley in 1943, and who came of age in the psychedelic and surreal San Francisco of the '60s and '70s, died of AIDS in Los Angeles two years ago. He began his career as an underground filmmaker, but as he gained success he turned away from the world of commercial films to delve into his personal fantasies, which he began to record through still photography. The resulting images were staged tableaux, striking, sexual, and undeniably gay photographs — imagine a Joel Peter Witkin photo designed by Pierre et Gilles.

In his introduction to this volume, Peter Weiermair describes the old pretzel factory in down-

town Los Angeles that served as Arnold's studio, living quarters, atelier and salon: "His studio was a cacophony of art and kitsch — kitsch as only America, particularly Hollywood, could produce: furniture of different styles, stuffed animals, oriental bric-a-brac, crystal vases and Art Deco urns, boxes, Christmas decorations — and all of this framed by countless hanging lengths of decorative cloth. Into this shrill world he invited Hollywood society as if to a grand salon: actors and dancers, filmmakers and prostitutes, drag queens and musicians, construction workers and fashion designers, poets and transsexuals, and among them the models who assisted him in his staged photographic tableaux. His house mirrored his own surreal obsessions, his fascination with the loudly clashing mixture of high and low culture. His studio, as he once remarked to himself, 'is more like

Barnum and Bailey fucks Louis XIV, in drag.'"

Weiermair calls Arnold a "ring-master in the circus of the soul." Of his meticulously staged photo tableaux, Arnold says, "If all goes well, the viewer's psyche gets taken for a ride ... preferably a dangerous one." And, indeed, these are dazzling, hilarious, unsettling trips into the psyche. If the props and framing devices seem out of this world, look at what they're presenting: famous faces (Madonna, Tony Ward), highly unusual drag queens, and some truly exotic androgynes. Most, however, are fleshy young men, their musculature highlighted with painted contours, their sexuality emphasized by Arnold's cunning visual trickery, as well as by the plumpness of their hard, thrusting cocks. Forming a delicious stew composed of Cocteau, sex, and the surreal, Arnold's hothouse beatifications are archetypal, gay wet dreams. ▼

THEATRE

Nuthouse brigade

Former San Franciscan Rob Nash's new one-man, six character play in two acts and three generations, *12 Steps to a More Dysfunctional Family, Part III*, continues through the end of the month at Josie's Cabaret. Josie's hosted Nash's first solo work, *12 Steps to a More Dysfunctional You*, in 1993. The show earned Nash "Solo Performer of the Year" from the Bay Area Critic's Circle and enjoyed an encore run at the Cable Car Theatre in 1994. In *Dysfunctional Family, Part III*, audiences may recognize members of their own family: Ashley purges, Matt runs away, Margot excels in divinity school, Wind-song gets in touch with her colon, Fred contemplates bankruptcy, and somehow, Mildred manages to keep the whole family together. *12 Steps to a More Dysfunctional Family, Part III* is at Josie's, 3583 16th St. Call 861-7933 for tickets and information. ▼



TELEVISION

Leading lady, leading lesbian?

by Wayne Hoffman

Will she or won't she? That's the question facing the entertainment media this month. Television star Ellen DeGeneres has been teasing viewers with the possibility of the title character of her show *Ellen* coming out as a lesbian. In September's premiere, her character Ellen Morgan made a crack about how she would never marry a man. By the next episode, she was literally coming out of the closet — in her new house, that is. DeGeneres is testing the waters quite publicly, trying to measure reactions, but it's still unclear whether the news is for real or if this is only a test.

"This is not a trial balloon," says A.J. Jacobs, who wrote *Entertainment Weekly's* October 4 cover story "Gay TV." "This leaked out without them wanting it to, but now that it's out there, they're gauging the public and media's reaction."

Time magazine's Ginia Bellafante disagrees. In her October 7 story, Bellafante looks at DeGeneres' tour of the talk show circuit as testing the waters before the decision is made — not, as Jacobs suggests, trying to cover a leak of a done deal.

"It appears, given her talk show appearances, that it's an exercise in market research," Bellafante says. And it seems to be a promising exercise at that. "Given that such high-profile advertisers like Intel and Microsoft have said they would stick with it, I think it might happen."

There is, of course, the threat of a boycott from the American Family Association. Disney (whose Touchstone division produces *Ellen* and whose ABC network airs the show) is no stranger to the AFA; a boycott is already underway from the anti-gay group over Disney's domestic partner benefits for employees. Disney seems unscathed from the current AFA boycott, however, and is unlikely to change its mind over this round of threats.

Real determinant

More than a boycott, the ratings may well determine *Ellen's* fate. Already slipping in viewer share, the show needs something to keep it alive. If ABC hoped that the controversy would spike the ratings for this season's premiere, they were wrong; numbers are down sharply from last season — although Bellafante is quick to point out the show's strong new competitor, *The Nanny*, may have more to do with the decline than any lesbian controversy.

Declining ratings, however, may not be an entirely bad thing. The network might be more willing to make major changes in a show that needs major changes to stay afloat.

"It's not as big of a risk," Jacobs says of tinkering with a lower-rated show. "It's not like bringing Tim Allen out of the closet, or Jerry Seinfeld. It's a middling show anyway."

Still, even Jacobs acknowledges that while *Ellen* coming out might be great for gay rights and the show's creative edge, it may damage ratings. A poll in *Entertainment Weekly* shows that while a majority of viewers wouldn't be offended by a gay lead character, nearly half wouldn't let their kids watch it, and 44 percent say the trend toward more gay television

characters is a bad one. The poll also predicts that ratings will more likely fall than rise if *Ellen* comes out.

Nonetheless, it is a banner season for gay characters on television; *Entertainment Weekly* counts 22 gay characters on prime time this season. So perhaps audience impressions will change, and network fears will be allayed, when gay characters become increasingly more common.

"I think that actors are feeling greater freedom to explore playing gay characters," says Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) Communications Director Alan Klein. "It definitely is a new trend, and the *Ellen* people really saw this as an opportunity to move the show in a direction that would get more attention and more viewers and hopefully bring the numbers up."

Tricky task

Ellen is different from the other gay characters for two important reasons, however. First, *Ellen* is the title character, not a



Ellen DeGeneres

supporting cast member, and the networks have never had a gay lead. Second, *Ellen Morgan* the character is portrayed by *Ellen DeGeneres* the actor, whose own sexuality has been the subject of

tabloid headlines. Separating the character coming out from DeGeneres coming out is a tricky task.

"They're making a very strong distinction that it's just *Ellen Morgan* coming out, but it certainly is raising questions I don't think *Ellen DeGeneres* is comfortable addressing right now about her own sexuality," says Jacobs. "It's such a fine line when you're playing a character who has the same name."

If *Ellen* does come out, rumors abound that the network will hold off the revelation until February or even May, television "sweeps months." Jacobs thinks stretching out the tension that long is foolhardy, as all momentum could be lost once the media spotlight shifts elsewhere.

But what if *Ellen* doesn't come out after all? The impact on gay television characters could have a chilling effect on future endeavors.

"If *Ellen* doesn't do it, it would make the statement that we're scared, we backed away, we could-

n't do it because it wouldn't be profitable," says Bellafante. "I think that would detract and scare other people away."

Jacobs is more optimistic. First of all, the possibility will have been opened, she notes. Secondly, the smaller networks, from Fox to UPN and WB, are more willing to take big risks and would likely rush in to steal the media attention.

On one thing the media experts agree.

"If they don't go with the lesbian story line, it ain't going to help the ratings," says Klein. "The show will die in anonymity. This is the one thing they envisioned will help the show. Whether that happens remains to be seen, but if they don't go with the story line, it's just going to tank."

Whether Disney takes the plunge or pulls the plug, it seems likely that it's just a matter of time until gay America is ready for prime time — or vice versa.

"The closet door has been cracked open," says Jacobs. "It would be hard to close it." ▼

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Balls o' fire! Anonymous baldie studmuffin knows someone on Hell Ball's promotional staff.

Boo balls

Don't look now, but here comes Halloween. **Halloween San Francisco**, next Thursday night's CUAV-sponsored festivities, takes place in Civic Center for the first time; you and I know there might be a little commotion back in **Castroland** as well. Seems like there may be enough partiers among us to keep both sites hopping. Now if only **Boyfriend** can manage not to get arrested this year.

Meanwhile, the big Halloween Balls begin this weekend. Saturday night you can choose from the **1996 Hookers' Ball**, the **Exotic Erotic Halloween Ball**, and the first-time event **Hell Ball**, among other hedonistic revelries and club events. **Freak-A Weekend of Halloween Mayhem** is the name for the Saturday night and Sunday night parties, including costume contests, at Clubs Universe and Pleasuredome respectively. Over on Polkstrasse, the New Lorelei Theatre Company presents **Halloween Cabaret-Hollywood** at Kimo's.

Only you know what celebration is right for you. I'm leery of the Exotic Erotic, only because I've heard horror stories from years past of hours-long lines at the door, and of a straight ambience inside. But this year's **E/E** line-up includes queer rockers **Pansy Division**, and the **Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence**, along with blast-from-the-past bands **The Tubes** and **Love and Rockets**, so it might be worth the heterosexual drawbacks.

The **Hookers' Ball** seems sure to be wide open, with exotic dancers, a fetish fashion show, an amateur strip contest, a spanking booth, and below deck, a **Dungeon** described in the press release as "a glass-enclosed room whose hosts will entertain guests' sexual fantasies of choice in front of **voyeurs** looking through the glass walls." Yes, sir! Supervisorial candidate and prostitution rights advocate **Margo St. James** is the Ball's founder, and it's a benefit for the sex-workers group **C.O.Y.O.T.E.** (Call Off Your Old Tired Ethics).

The new ball on the block is **Hell Ball**, a big gay costume and dance extravaganza whose theme is "To Hell and Back: a Dionysian Trip." I guess that means break out the devil's horns and the old trident tail. This benefit for Continuum will be held at the Galleria Design Center.

It all sounds **too scary**. See the listings for party locations, ticket prices, and information hotlines. ▼



Founder Margo St. James in Felliniesque mode at the **Hooker's Ball**. This year's Ball is Saturday night at Maritime Hall (see listing).

Eg

Beauty

Steven Patterson in an erotic odyssey inspired by the writings of Jean Genet, directed by John Sowle. Fri. & Sat. at 8:30pm, Sun. at 7:30pm thru 10/27. \$10. Studio Rhino, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Deporting the Divas

Guillermo Reyes' sequel to "Men on the Verge of a Hispanic Breakdown," a look at the gay immigrant experience. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, extended thru 10/26. \$14-18. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2916 16th St. 861-5079.

Hong Kong Memories

Patrick Lee's play: Hong Kong on the verge of '97. Wed.-Sun. thru 11/3, call for times. \$13-15. Tonight at 8pm. Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa. 621-7978.

Juke Joint

"Sistahs Singin'," sets of jazz, blues and soul by Sandi Poindexter, Allegra Bandy, Lady Blue, more. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm. \$8-12. Luna Sea Women's Perf. Proj., 2940 16th St., #216C. 863-2989.

Jungle Red

Artfull Circle Theatre's "all-girl" musical comedy based on "The Women." Donna Sachet, Ann Drogynous, Birdie Bob Watt, more. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm thru 10/26. \$15. Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, 500 Sutter. 621-5455.

Lines Contemporary Ballet

Alonzo King's ballet company in rotating repertory. Wed.-Sun. thru 10/27 at 7:30pm. \$7-30. Center for the Arts, Yerba Buena Gardens. 978-ARTS.

Mad Forest

Caryl Churchill's play on the downfall of Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 10/27. \$9. Little Theatre, SFSU, 1600 Hol-

loway. 338-1341.

Relative Values

Chamber Theatre's production of Noel Coward's comedy opens. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 3pm thru 11/24. \$18. Phoenix Theatre, 301 8th St. 346-3107.

Rita Kissen

Reads from "The Last Closet: Real Lives of Lesbian and Gay Teachers," free. 7:30pm.

A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Rob Nash

"12 Steps to a More Dysfunctional Family, Part III," one-man six-character Dysfunctional Family Saga. Wed.-Sun. thru 10/27 at 8pm. \$12. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Samantha Samuels

Cabaret star in evening of stories and songs. \$10. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Wild Women

All-female performance line-up includes Kathleen Hermsdorf & Dominique Zeltzman, Potrzebie Dance Proj., Annie Rosenthal and Dancers, more. \$12.50. 8pm. ODC Perf. Gallery Theater, 3153 17th St. 863-9834.

Sat

Asian Ghost Stories

Nancy Wang and Robert Kikuchi-Yngojo of Eth-no-ter perform scary tales from Korea, China, more. \$10. 7:30pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 282-8705.

Cabaret

TheatreWorks presents the decadent musical. Tues.-Sun. thru 11/3. \$20-28. Tonight at 8pm, call for times. Mountain View Ctr. for Perf. Arts, Castro & Mercy, Mountain View. 903-6000.

Colors

Masquerade benefit dance party to elect Dr. Juanita Owens to SF School Board. 9pm-2am. Jelly's, 295 China Basin Way.

DragStrip

Genderbending nightclub, incl. Trauma Flintstone, Jade, Timmie Spence, more. Benefits Kairos Support for Caregivers. \$6. 10pm-3am. Cat's Grill, 1190 Folsom. 331-9595 x300.

Exotic Erotic Ball

Masquerade ball, with Love and Rockets, Pansy Division, Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. \$39.50. 8pm-2am. Concourse Exhibition Ctr, 8th & Brannan. 567-BALL.

Futura

"Noche de Brujas" (Night of the Witches) Latino Halloween party, costume contest. \$10. 174 King. 665-6715.

Gay Comedy Night

Scott Silverman, Janis Lip-ton, drag chanteuse Musty Chiffon. \$10. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Halloween Cabaret

"Hollywood" revue of glamorous stars, costume contest. \$5. 9:30pm. Kimo's Lounge, 1351 Polk. 921-6748.

Halloween: The Plays

The Sick and Twisted Players' double-feature fright fest, starring Omewenne as Jamie Lee Curtis. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 11/2. \$10-15. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia. 826-5358.

Hell Ball

"To Hell and Back: a Dionysian Trip"-themed costume dance party, benefits Continuum. \$25-100. 9pm. Galleria Design Center, Show-place Square. (510) 762-2277.

Hookers' Ball

Entertainment, spanking booth, body painting and piercing, Barbary Coast Bar, Dungeon. Benefits the sex workers org. C.O.Y.O.T.E. 8:30pm. \$45 (\$75 VIP, 7pm). Maritime Hall, 450 Harrison. 974-9306.

Isn't It Romantic?

"Return to Camelot" black-tie banquet, after-dinner dancing, Silicon Valley Gay Men's Chorus. \$125, benefits

Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center. 6:30pm. Hyatt Hotel, North First St., San Jose. (408) 293-AGAY.

Late Nite with Joan Jett Blakk

Sensational guests, smart talk, biting humor. \$10. Mid-night. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

The Lesbian Erotic:

"Pictures from 1975-1995," exhibit of pioneering lesbian photographers including Phyllis Christopher, Honey Lee Cottrell, Jill Posener, more. Sat. & Sun. 2-5pm thru 11/3. Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of No. Calif., 973 Market. 777-5455.

Lesbigay Radio

Queer music & comedy: pun-dits, politicians & pioneers. Sat. nights at Midnight. 1450 AM. 1-800-GAY-6550.

Like A Mother Bear

A Traveling Jewish Theatre presents Helen Stoltzfus in a solo performance. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 11/17. \$12-15. ATJT, 2800 Mariposa. 399-1809.

Nightclub of the Living Dead

MCC/SF's annual Halloween follies. \$7. 8pm. MCC/SF, 150 Eureka. 863-4434.

Open Studios

Artists open their studios in North Beach, Pacific Heights, Western Addition, more. Sat. & Sun., 11am-6pm. 861-9838.

Peace Corps

Bay Area Lesbian/Gay Returned Peace Corps Volunteers' weekend in Santa Cruz. Sat. & Sun. Call for details. 695-7728.

Syn

80 Something

'80s new wave and rock, DJ Paul Cruikshank. \$2. 9pm-2am. Stud, 9th & Harrison.

Freak

"Halloween Mayhem" dance club. Costume contest at 11pm. 7-9pm-6am. Pleasuredome, 177 Townsend. 974-1156.

Gary Pool

Reads from coming-out mystery, "Bread of Wickedness," free. 2:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

GAWK

Gay Artists and Writers' Collective seeks video editors, guitar players, publishers. Sundays at 3pm. Location, info: 731-2424.

MACT Brunch

"All-American Brunch Food" potluck, bring dish to feed 5 or more. 1-3pm. 2nd fl., Lone Star, 1354 Harrison. 675-0201.

Midori

Gifted young violinist in recital with pianist Robert McDonald. \$28-42. 3pm. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley. (510) 642-9988.

Mon

Daphne Scholinski

Lesbian artist and activist presents slide show, speech delivered to Conf. on Women in Beijing, free. 4pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Gay Book Clubs

Gay men's book club discusses Michael Cunningham's "Flesh and Blood," lesbian book club discusses Jeanette Winter-son's "The Passion." 7pm. Clean, Well-Lighted Place,



Caryl Churchill's brilliant drama "Mad Forest" plays at San Francisco State University's Little Theater. See Friday's listing.

2417 Larkspur Landing,
Larkspur. 461-0171.

Gay Comedy Open Mike

Aspiring queer comics sign up
by phone, MC Karen Ripley.
\$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret,
3583 16th St. 861-7933.

SFAI:

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retrospective of works by fac-
ulty and alumni, incl. Ansel
Adams, Imogen Cunningham,
Annie Leibovitz. Mon.-Fri.
thru 11/25. Transamerica
Pyramid lobby, 600 Mont-
gomery.

Tues 29

Commonplace Mysteries

"Photographs by Peter Hujar,
Andrea Modica, and Bill
Owens" exhibit. Thru 2/2. SF-
MOMA, 151 3rd St.
357-4000.

The Face of Hope

Annual Gala benefits UCSF
AIDS Health Project, honors
Congresswoman Pelosi. Sup-
per buffet, performances.
\$100. 5:30pm. Fairmont
Hotel, 950 Mason.
476-6430.

George Herms

"Works Saluting San Fran-
cisco," and "nude)," the
body in video, exhibitions.
Tues.-Sat. thru 11/2.
Catharine Clark Gallery, 49
Geary. 399-1439.

Musty Chiffon

Rock & roll drag chanteuse
sings live. Opens tonight, runs
thru 11/3. \$12. 8pm. Josie's
Cabaret, 3583 16th St.
861-7933.

Pieces of the Quilt

Short plays by Edward Albee,
Jon Robin Baitz, Sandra
Bernhard, more. Conceived by
Sean San José Blackman as a
mem'l to his parents, both of
whom died of AIDS. Benefits
Project Open Hand and The
Names Project. Wed.-Sun.
thru 11/17, call for times.
\$15-21. Magic Theatre, Bldg.
D, Fort Mason. 441-8822.

Refiguring Nature

"Women in the Landscape"
photography exhibition in-
cludes Linda Connor, Nina
Glaser, Ana Mendieta. Tues.-
Sat. thru 11/23. SF Camera-
work, 115 Natoma.
764-1001.

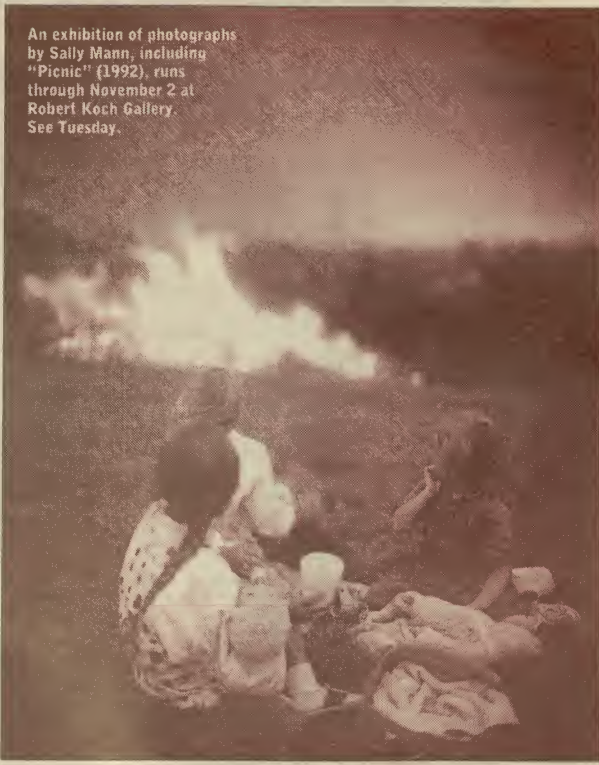
Sally Mann

Photographs from "Immedi-
ate Family" and new work.
Thru 11/2. Robert Koch
Gallery, 49 Geary. 421-0122.

Silent Art Auction

"for AIDS Advocacy" Works
by over 60 artists, benefits

An exhibition of photographs
by Sally Mann, including
"Picnic" (1992), runs
through November 2 at
Robert Koch Gallery.
See Tuesday.



Sally Mann

ACT UP/East Bay. Tues.-Sun.
thru 12/1. Berkeley Store
Gallery, 2295 Shattuck,
Berkeley. (510) 568-1680.

Splendors of Imperial China

Survey of treasures from the
National Palace Museum,
Taipei. Tues.-Sun. thru 12/8.
\$9.50. Asian Art Museum,
Golden Gate Park. 379-8801.

Women with Balls

The only women-ruled stand-
up comedy room in SF. Tues.
at 8pm. \$5. Cat's Grill, 1190
Folsom. 431-3332.

Wed 30

After These Messages

Exhibition exploring Ameri-
can media, culture and indi-
vidual identity. Thru 11/20.
Student Center Art Gallery,
SFSU, 1650 Holloway.
338-2580.

Beat Culture

"And the New America:
1950-1965," exhibition of
painting, sculpture, film, in-
stallations, music and spoken
word. Thru 12/29. deYoung
Museum, Golden Gate Park.
863-3330.

Carousel

Rodgers & Hammerstein's
musical, romance between
carnival barker and mill
worker. Wed.-Sun. thru
11/10. \$32-55. Golden Gate
Theatre, Taylor at Market.
776-1999.

Ending the Epidemic:

"The Politics of Breast Can-
cer" community forum spon-
sored by Breast Cancer Ac-
tion. \$5. 6:30pm. 3333 Cali-
fornia. 243-9301.

Medea, the Musical

John Fisher's hit play. Wed.-
Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 3pm
thru 11/10. \$25-29. Stage
Door Theatre, 420 Mason.
433-9500.

Party

David Dillon's comedy: seven
gay friends play "Facts and
Fantasies." Wed.-Sun. ex-
tended thru 12/1, call for
times. \$20-25. Tonight at
8pm. Cable Car Theatre, 430
Mason. 956-8497.

Picasso at the Lapin Agile

Steve Martin's comedy fea-
turing the NY cast. Tues.-
Sun., extended thru 1/5.
Tonight at 8pm, call for
times. \$25-38. Theatre on the
Square, 450 Post. 433-9500.

The Rose Tattoo

ACT presents Tennessee
Williams' comedy of love and
redemption on the Gulf Coast.
Tues.-Sun. thru 11/24, call
for times. Opens tonight at
8pm. \$19-47.50. Geary The-
atre, 415 Geary. 749-2228.

Shedding a Straightjacket:

"Homophile Civil Rights/ Ho-
mosexual Liberation 1961-
1966" exhibit exploring early
gay rights movement, thru
11/14. Panel discussion
tonight (lower level), 6pm.
Gay and Lesbian Center, New
Main Library.

Thomas Roche

Reading from "Sons of Dark-
ness," gay male vampire sto-
ries, free. 7:30pm. Modern
Times, 888 Valencia.
282-9246.

Thur 31

Crossing the Frontier:
"Photographs of the Develop-

ing West, 1849 to the Pre-
sent" exhibit, thru 1/5. SF-
MOMA, 151 3rd St.
357-4000.

Dead Man's Party

Dancing to New Wave music,
DJs Shindog and Skip. \$10.
9pm-2am. New Wave City,
435 Broadway. 675-LOVE.

Halloween San Francisco

Costumes, dancing, face-
painting and entertainment in
Civic Center. CUAV event
benefits AIDS prevention. \$2
with costume, \$4 without.
777-5500.

Katharina Fritsch

Survey of works by German
sculptor. Thru 3/9. SFMO-
MA, 151 3rd St. 357-4000.

Low Brow Gods:

"The Art of Boxing," exhibi-
tion of artwork which includes
images of the sport, also his-
torical boxing posters. Tues.-
Sun. thru 11/10. \$4. Center
for the Arts, 701 Mission.
978-ARTS.

Roberta

42nd St. Moon's Lost Musi-
cal Series presents Jerome
Kern's 1933 musical in con-
cert. Thurs.-Sun. thru 11/17,
call for times. Opens tonight
at 8pm. \$18. New Conserva-
tory Theatre, 25 Van Ness.
861-8972.

Robert Moses' Kin

With choreographer/per-
former Jimmy Turner: dance
which uses ballet, hip hop,
and jazz. Tonight thru Sat. at
8pm, Sun. at 2pm. \$12.50-
18.50. Theater Artaud, 450
Florida. 621-7797.

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Roberto Friedman
Out & About
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
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vegetable ragout.....9.75

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cream sauce.....11.95

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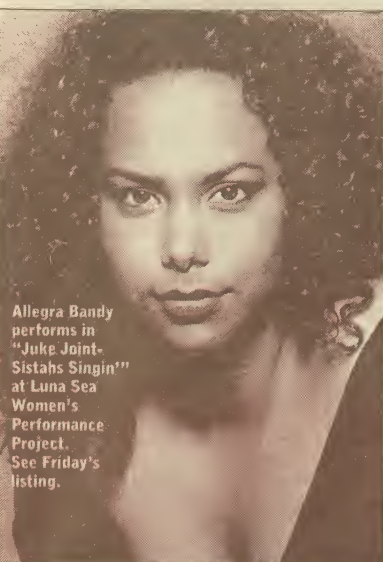
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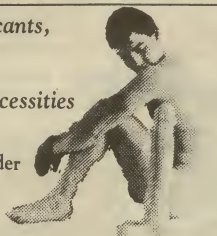
Allegra Bandy
performs in
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Sistahs Singin'"
at Luna Sea
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Performance
Project.
See Friday's
listing.

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Halloween potpourri

by Mister Marcus

The fall social season is in full swing, and Halloween seems to be everyone's main focus. Parties galore are on tap—some small ones and gigantic disco parties with cash prizes for the best costumes. Since Halloween has often been termed "our New Year's," it is a holiday many look forward to with enthusiasm.

Those forces-that-be have declared that Halloween has outgrown the Castro, so the big celebration this year takes place in the Civic Center. However, with so much construction work going on there—cyclone fences and equipment all over the place—I can't really see where all the "space" they are touting exists, and since I have yet to receive any press releases or info on this event, you'll just have to take your chances with this one.

There are, of course, pre- and post-Halloween events, so here are a few for your consideration:

First of all, if you're really into it, you'll want to employ a little costuming expertise. God knows, every costume rental place in town has been inundated with revelers hell-bent on doing their thing. Most of the local leather stores have Halloween masks of leather, latex, feathers and other materials, so there should be no problem getting into your subculture gear. Just don't wait too long!

The Leather Zone on Upper Market has come up with Halloween jocks (straps) for those of you who are not afraid to bare your body during these cool evenings. These jocks (\$69 each) are made of customized leather. One is the "Jack O' Jock": orange leather with pumpkin faces on it. Another is made of white leather with ghost faces, and still another features white leather with skulls. So now you're "dressed," but where to go?

If you feel like traveling to the East Bay, this Saturday night, Oct. 26, at the Turf Club in Hayward, the Alameda Leather Corps presents "Twisted Cartoons in Hides & Heels," a costume event beginning at 2200. Ms. "Thumper" will emcee the costume and fantasy contests; whoever wins the fantasy competition can designate his/her prize money to go to a favorite charity. If you want to enter, call Den at 510/537-5428.

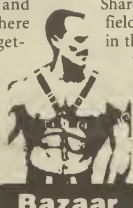
Club Universe and Pleasure-dome present "FREAK," a weekend (Sat.-Sun., Oct. 25-26) of costume contests at midnight both nights. On Saturday night, it's The Hell Ball at the Galleria Design Center (101 Henry Adams St.). A pre-Halloween costume ball, it's a benefit for Continuum and Halloween SF. I scanned the poster thoroughly but could find no price given for this one!

Also on Saturday night, The 15 Association's dungeon party, "Five Days to Halloween," \$10, goes from 2100 to 0200. Doors open from 2100 to 2300. BYOB and your guests must arrive with you. Call 673-0452 for invite and location.

On Sunday, Oct. 27, if you survive The Hell Ball, there's the "After Shock" dance party, 0400-noon, 715 Harrison, \$10 advance/\$15 door.



Mr. Marcus reads names of leather people at the AIDS Memorial Quilt Display in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, Oct. 12.



Bazaar

On Monday night, Oct. 28, Sharon McNight, Weslia Whitfield and Gail Wilson will wait in the "Divas à Trois" show at the Plush Room to benefit Kay Tsenin, \$100-\$250. Call 344-0871 for reservations.

On Wednesday night, Oct. 30, the annual Leather & Feathers costume competition and beer bust at the SF Eagle! Cash \$100 prizes are being offered in three categories: Most Humorous, Best "In Theme" and Best Group. Costumes must be made of leather and feathers! Action begins at 2200—pumpkin carving contest at 2000.

That same night, George Holcroft (he never rests!) at Daddy's is having a Hood & Halloween beer bust for \$6. Wear your hood; there will be prizes for Scariest, Funniest and Most Original.

Thursday is Halloween. In spite of the move to the Civic Center, hordes are expected to converge on the Castro—gay and straight. Put yourself in a safe pub with windows so you can watch the madness without the hassle.

On Friday, Nov. 1, Club Townsend's "Spinning House" dance party, 2200 to 0400, \$15. Also, the San Franciscans MC is hosting a \$6 beer bust at the Eagle, 2100-midnight.

Last Sunday afternoon, Municipal Court judge candidate Kay Tsenin had a couple choice quips for the crowd at the Cal Eagles' beer bust at the SF Eagle. Attired in heels, La Tsenin gushed: "I'm not used to wearing heels at the Eagle, unlike some of you guys!" The audience cracked up, gave her a standing ovation and, I suspect, several hundred votes!

Minsky's revisited

Last Saturday night, Oct. 19, the SF GDIs staged for the 22nd year in a row, their annual drag-a-thon, "A Date at Minsky's," at the SOMAR Gallery. Apparently, a drag show is just not enough these days, so gaming tables were added to the evening's event. Several of the

newer members were shocked when one old-timer walked in wearing a button from the first-ever show way back in 1974!

There was a decent turnout for the event. After all, the price was right—\$5 in advance/\$7 at the door! Mostly bike club members were in attendance. (Well, if we don't support them, why should they support our affairs?)

The show should have been subtitled, "The Suzie Wong and Davida Show," but it was entertaining. One of the best numbers was actually offstage when Jason Fontaine did an operatic number in a wheelchair (camp at its finest!). Jack Goodall and Gary Kenyon pushed La Fontaine back and forth across the floor, garnering a standing ovation. Later, Nova Lei and his Family of Creative Talent brought the house down with a 10-member troupe, fans, glitz, choreography and a hidden message in the Neil Diamond song that again brought a standing ovation. Nova and his dancers never, never disappoint.

Best of all, Pushy Phyllis remained sober and was actually civil to everyone! Jeremy Guyer proved to be quite good as the emcee. However, "Minsky's" at 22 seems to have lost something along the way. In its infancy, the show had SRO crowds, commemorative buttons and a big cast party afterward. The tradition lives, but it's showing its age. Maybe next year...

Dish, dish, dish...dot

Keith Truitt—he of the Golden Gate Guards, board member of the AIDS Emergency Fund and member of the current royal court—adamantly denies he will be running for emperor of SF next year! La Truitt: "Not no, but 'hell no!'"

And speaking of Keiths, would you believe that Intl. Mr. Drummer '94 Keith Hunt is so involved with drag after winning a Dallas country/western bar drag title, he is now preparing to enter a major drag/talent competition with gowns designed by Bob Mackie?! In drag, Keith borders on being pure camp/pure hell-bent on wheels to win. Stay tuned. There will be pictures! And all you other IMLs and IMDs better quit smirking! I have photos of some of you in feminine attire!

In answer to your many inquiries about just why Mr. Drummer Europe Antonio Sanchez didn't show up in San Francisco to compete for the International Mr. Drummer title, I can tell you that he was disqualified by his sponsors in Amsterdam because he demanded airfare and hotel accommodations for his lover as well as himself.

When the sponsors refused to pay for his lover, the gorgeous Antonio decided not to come to San Francisco. As a result, he was disqualified on Wednesday, Sept. 25, the day he was supposed to check in here. It was, of course, too late for the first runner-up to get here in time, so Europe was not represented at all this year.

Leather Pride Week takes place in Amsterdam Oct. 25 through Nov. 3. On Friday, Nov. 1, Antonio will pass his sash to the new Mr. Drummer Europe. The contest will be emceed by Frank Nowicki, and some our San Francisco leather luminaries will be there. Stay tuned. And thank you, Antonio, for a tumultuous year!

LEATHER SCENE

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, Oct. 24

Daddy-Boy Dating Game at Daddy's with a \$6 beer bust, \$800 in raffle prizes, dinners for two, 2000-2300. Also free entertainment at Hamburger Mary's at 1900, featuring Rat Bike II with cash prizes for best beater bikes.

Friday, Oct. 25

Free STD screening upstairs at 933 Harrison St., 2100-2300, with your choice of test. Open to all!

Saturday, Oct. 26

Halloween activity galore all over town (see column). Plus supe candidate Margo St. James' "Hooker's Masquerade Ball" at the Maritime Hall, 450 Harrison, with \$75 VIP tix (at 1900); \$45 tix for entry at 2030.

Sunday, Oct. 27

AIDS Memorial Grove beer bust at Eagle, \$8, 1600-1900. Free entertainment at Hamburger Mary's at 2100; tonight it's Cash Farrar. Pegasus.

MOC Trick or Treat Run to Santa Cruz Mountains and barbecue at Greg's Ballroom afterward.

Monday, Oct. 28

Gail Wilson, Sharon McNight and Weslia Whitfield at the Plush Room, a benefit for Kay Tsenin. Call 344-0871 to reserve.

Wednesday, Oct. 30

Pumpkin Carving contest begins at 2000, followed by the annual Leather & Feathers costume contest at the SF Eagle. Win \$100 for Most Humorous, Best "In Theme" and Best Group. Costume judging begins at 2200 with celebrity judges. Hood & Halloween contest at Daddy's, with prizes in three categories for hoods/masks as envisioned by George Holcroft, beginning at 2100 with a \$6 beer bust. More next week!

Deadline for Cal Eagles MC \$65 overnighter to the RushRiv, lodging at Triple R, dinners and continental breakfast the weekend of Nov. 9-10. Call 267-0560 or CalEagles@aol.com.

Where the leatherboys are

Connie Francis is coming to the Eagle! Mark your calendars for the Wednesday, Nov. 13 benefit/beer bust, 2100-2400, for Coming Home Hospice. Details are sketchy, but according to Ms. Francis' press aide, Mike Church, they are considering a Connie Francis Look-Alike Contest. The last time Ms. Francis graced the stage at the Eagle was at a Sunday

afternoon beer bust; there was a line a mile long out in front. Don't miss this one. Stay tuned.

Dungeon tour

It's been 10 years since there was a tour of some of this city's infamous dungeons, so Steve Gaynes and Peter Fiske are hosting a deluxe one on Sunday, Nov. 10, leaving from the SF Eagle at 1900. Besides the "live action" at

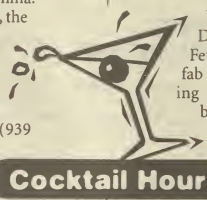
the dungeons you'll visit, you'll travel to them in a special van with champagne and hors d'oeuvres, meet real players, get drink tickets from bars, discount tickets from businesses and trial memberships to on-line services. Tour ends at 2200. It's a benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund and will cost you \$75. Limited seating. Call 415/861-6983 for reservations. ▼

It's scar-r-ry!

by Sweet Lips

There are so many events and soirées to attend during the next few weeks that it's starting to get scary! I can't remember if I should be in my leather vest, my leather corset or my leather boa! (Yes, dear friends, I have one of each.) *Quelle* dilemma!

Plunging right in, the third annual fall fundraiser for Tenderloin Tessie's holiday dinners takes place at Old Rick's Gold Room (939 Geary) on Sunday, Oct. 27, starting at 1 p.m. Gorge



Cocktail Hour

yourself on the \$3 brunch provided by Hal Gage and Ima Blaster, while enjoying the antics of emcee Grand Merde — oops, that's "Mere" — Jose Empress I. An auction plus more royalty than you can shake a stick at are also on tap.

My fate watering hole, the Polk Rondez-Boo (1303 Polk), presents its first annual "Screaming Halloween Ball," on the evening of Thursday, Oct. 31. If you've ever frequented this august establishment, you know it can be pretty frightening in broad daylight. Just imagine it on All Hallow's Eve! I've got chills just thinking about it. Or that might be the DTs again. Same difference! Anyway, there's a costume contest: \$100 first prize, \$50 second prize, \$25 third prize, plus a raffle and prizes.

Reflections (1160 Polk) is throwing a costume party at 9 p.m. on Oct. 31. Ghosts and goblins will be working their jaws at the special "Bobbing for Sex Toys Contest." Guess I'll have to take my teeth out for that one! With Vincent Sparks and the Boys of Polk Street Exotic Dancers. These noted ecddysiasts will thrill you with their terpsichorean skills and non-latex appendages. As Marvin

Gaye once sang, "Ain't nothin' like the real thing, baby!" Plus complimentary food and drink specials all night long.

Also on Halloween, the Giraffe (1131 Polk) will be celebrating for the umpteenth time David Weber's 40th birthday (this man has horns that are five decades old) with a Mexican buffet at 4 p.m. by south of the border sensation Dennis "Frijoles and Feta" Tyler. Spin to the fab music in your fetching apparel and enter both costume contests (10 p.m. and midnight).

The Q.T. (1312 Polk) is sponsoring "A Nightmare on Polk Street" to cope with the overflow crowds from the Civic Center. Yes, this famous *boite* is playing host to the Spawn of Hell as depicted in Hollywood's sleaziest horror flicks. Come as your favorite slasher flick character! Rumor has it that Greta Grass will be putting in an appearance as a rather *zafzig* Lorena Bobbitt. Keep your sausages to yourself when the witching hour strikes! Judging at midnight in the Best Slasher, Best Victim and Best Heroine categories. Cash prizes will be awarded.

Pre-Halloween festivities include a "Hollywood Halloween" at the redoubtable Kimo's (1351 Polk), starting at 9 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 26, with costume judging at 11 p.m.

Don't forget the Halloween ball and costume party at The Cinch (1723 Polk), with judging at 11 p.m. The three prizes start at \$700. Come out and ogle the Young Guns strippers on Sunday, Oct. 27, 7-9 p.m. They're an eye and a mouthful!

The Swallow (1750 Polk) will kick off its all-night Halloween *fete* with the fun and flirtatious Mabel on the plank and the terribly talented Larry O'Leno on keyboards. Please note that on Thurs-

Donna Sachet in *Jungle Red*.

day, Oct. 24, 5-7 p.m., a celebration of life for Lillian Boyd will be held at the Swallow, with hors d'oeuvres by Dennis "Garlic and Gull's Eggs" Tyler.

Equine event: The Wooden Horse's (622 Polk) second monthly Miss Wooden Horse amateur drag contest takes place Wednesday, Oct. 30, at 9 p.m. Mistress of Ceremonies Empress Cockatielia, joined by celebrity judges of international renown, will crown the winner, who'll receive \$100. Call 415/771-8063 for more information. P.S.: Greta Grass will not be mesmerizing us as Helen of Troy at this bash.

You'd be a fool to miss the latest production of *Jungle Red* by the Artfull Circle Theatre at the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre (620 Sutter near Mason). Word has it that former Empress Donna Sachet steals the show. Breeding will tell, I always say.

Given the plethora of Polk-strasse affairs listed above, I'm sure my mascara will be streaming and my heels worn to a nub by the time Nov. 1 rolls around. However, it's nice to have Halloween back where it belongs thanks to its recent move out of the Castro to my neck of the woods.

On a final note: I just wanted to say good-bye to Joe Urban, who passed away of a heart attack last week. Joe, remember when you made your amyl in the tub in your backyard in the Castro and the whole neighborhood got high? Those were the days! ▼

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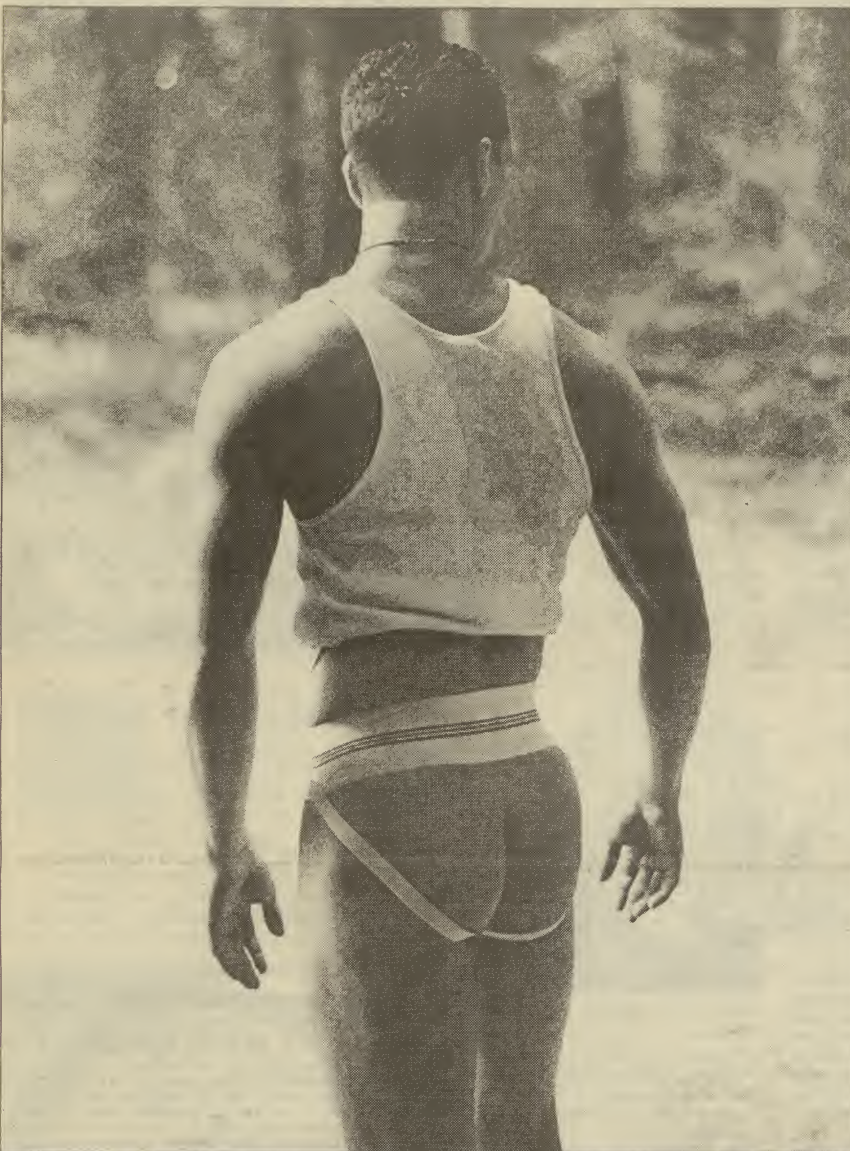
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You: wearing Fireman's hat & harness. I stopped to thank you for what you were wearing. Me: blue jeans, white T-shirt, black boots, sunglasses, brown hair, mustache & goatee. Call me! ☎ 3101.

Jason
You answered my ad #2932 on 9/26. You left no understandable phone #. Please try again this ad #. I will call if you want. ☎ 3102.

Steve
At city entertainment, Friday, Sept. 20, 6:30 PM. You: big dick, dark, lean. Me: big dick, Italian. I sucked you off. Great sex. Call me for a repeat. ☎ 3103.

76 on Market (9/26 4ish)
Darkly hairy, denim clad dreamboat walking east. Van Dyke guy pumping mini van was wishing timing was better for meeting you. Mutual attraction? I think so. Hope you read this & call me. ☎ 3104.

Joel Av. "Cinch" "Intch"
Can't just forget you. Could be our 3rd try. But respect yr commitment. Can we talk? Rick G. ☎ 3108.

Gas Station Los Gatos Blvd. 9/22
Me: blue shorts, T-shirt, asks u 4 directions. You: Chrysler 4dr, map book shorts, led me & my friend to turn off. I want to meet you. ☎ 3106.

Karim
Hold on to your American Dream! Le "Cowboy" Jim. ☎ 3111.

Metro/Castro 9/23
Monday at 9:00 AM. We exchanged several long glances. You smiled beautifully before you left. You: tall, dark hair, thin. Me: short, light brown hair, blue eyes. ☎ 3105.

Sign Your Petition? I'd Kiss You!
10/2, 6PM. You came to my door, asking me to sign your petition. You've got my number, said your name was Mocha? I'm Brian in 4C. Call me. ☎ 3114.

Dennis From Napa
Met you a Blow Buddies Thursday, Sept. 26. You: brown hair & real hot, I'm Matt. Brown hair, we played, want to play more, leave a message. ☎ 3109.

Outside Eagle After Folsom St.
You: Hot, 5'6", clean shaven, leather dad w/flogger, keys & cuff on left. Me: 6', stache, boy in uniform shirt, & cap. Enjoyed your intense stares. ☎ 3113.

9/21 Eros, David? Safeway Muni
You: Mexican & white? I came back but we had no cards. Got on K bus inbound. You said, "You worked lots, & no boyfriend." Really want to meet you again. ☎ 3115.

Hillsdale Mall Nordstroms
Espresso stand, 8:30, 9/25. You: dark complexion, dark full hair, very handsome. Me: seated at table. You gave obvious gestures, raised eyebrows, smile. I sadly missed opportunity. Let's try again. ☎ 3110.

Chris With Hapsburg Tattoo
Met you Castro fair. Loved your red hair & red kilt. Liked walking w/you. Let's do more. Call me, Robert. ☎ 3203.

Idaho 9/22 Sun Folsom & 5th
GWM, Idahoan missed his 11PM, 9/22 Sunday night appointment w/tall glding black male. Looked all over for you. Did I over look? You said, "Twice a night." Try inviting me over. I'll show you won't be depressed anymore. Richard. ☎ 3107.

Steamworks Sun Afternoon 9/29
You: GWM, buzzed hair, attached, dogs. Me: 31, GAM, single. Both living in the city. Made hot, passionate love. Realized you're "married," but would love for us to be friends. ☎ 3112.

Cafe Castro Street Fair 6 PM
Mark of Concord and from Alaska. Sorry we missed each other in the crowd. I wanted to spend some time w/you. Please call! Tom of SF from Alaska. I liked your Winnie the Pooh tattoo! ☎ 3201.

Hindsman Black Man Walter St. 10/5
You: walking Sat. afternoon w/your shirt unbuttoned. I waved & said "Hi," as did you. Wish I'd said more. We met years ago at SF from Alaska. I liked your smile. Call. ☎ 3206.

Seeking Relationship
I saw you at the Folsom Fair. You were in a wheelchair not in leather at all. You seemed to be tall like me, very good looking, came my way, but I turned away. I was in full leather, tall w/ yellow strip on my Chaps. Call me if you are the one. ☎ 3209.

Walnut Crk Hot Latin-Pony Tail
DJ's, 7/5. We made eye contact several times. Both of us w/friends. Me: GWM @ end of bar, Blond/Ht/Tan. Have dreamed about you. Hope you'll call! ☎ 3202.

Cuban Dancer
Mike, we talked, tried to meet at Phoenix. I've tried to call, but your number is disconnected. I'm still very interested in hooking up. If you are top, get in touch. Dennis. ☎ 3204.

Castro Fair Bear
In black Reebok tank & shorts. Me: cowboy w/camera, no shirt. Finally got a photo of you. Could we meet for a drink? ☎ 3207.

Let's Finish What We Started!
We played in the steam room & showers at the gym midday on Thursday Oct. 3rd. We both have goates—It was hot! Call me. ☎ 3208.

Dave Powerhouse Aft Folsom St.
You: tall, dark short hair, org from Atlanta. Me: b/b, wearing harness, sitting by pool table. You went to check out the action, I lost you in the crowd. Would like to meet. Charlie. ☎ 3205.

Pasta Pomodoro/Castro St. Fair
You said I looked sad. I said I was in my own world. Wished my friends stayed so I could have talked w/you. I introduced myself & left. Wish I had your #. Second chance? ☎ 3211.

Paul
Lost your #. You: black convertible Porsche on Chestnut 1/12/96. Call. ☎ 3308.

Pozole's After The Castro Fair
Our tables were adjacent. You: dark cap, sleeveless shirt. Me: short blonde hair, T-shirt & jeans. My friend broke a candle. We smiled at each other. Can we talk? ☎ 3212.

Mid Sept. Musc BM Church/Mrkt
You: musc, 8M, at Church & Mrkt, headed for coffee while female friend. Waived & smiled at me. Me: musc, BM. Let's have coffee. ☎ 3213.

Looking For Allan, A Redhead
Who lived on 14th Guerrero, 10-12 years ago. Saw you recently in the Mission (you didn't see me) & want to re-connect. ☎ 3242.

Canton On Castro Wed 10/9 8PM
You: tall, clean shaven, in green, getting takeout. Me: leather jacket, leaving w/friend. Our eyes locked. My mind fumbled. I'm like that, muddled. But also smart & kind. Any chance? ☎ 3301.

Fed Ex Man
Burlingame Ave ATM. You're a doll. I was in the right place at the right time & I blew it. Give me another chance? ☎ 3302.

Badlands 10/2 5PM Latin Guy
You: a cute, short, Mexican/Latin guy, had a dark coat, backpack & a garment bag. You sat in the front window, put your garment bag into your backpack. Me: tall, dark hair, brown shirt & jeans. Would like to meet you. Call. ☎ 3210.

You Again, Castro St. Fair
Selling T's w/"Gap" on sleeve at booth on Market...Often downtown & #45 to Union & Hyde. You: bl/bl. I'll never meet you but always wish I had. ☎ 3303.

Old Mint 5th & Mission 10/10
Near the Old Mint, 5PM. Me: shorts, goatee, sunglasses. You: Asian, carrying white envelope. You smoked on the stairs. I was too unsure. Please call! ☎ 3304.

Asian At Thai Diner
Asian (Thai)? at Thai diner restaurant, Thursday 10/10. You w/ long haired friend. Me: big guy. Our eyes met. Let's talk. ☎ 3305.

Superstar Video Wed 10/9
Warner Bros. sweatshirt, khaki shorts. You seemed to enjoy the view as much as I did. Let's skip the movie this time. ☎ 3306.

Kaiser Clinic, Mon 10/23 10AM
You were entering, I was leaving. Me: 8M, striped shirt, black shoulder bag. You: the most gorgeous smile in SF. ☎ 3307.

Ponytail & Rollerblades
Sun 10/13 GG park. You: skating in white tank, gym shorts. Me: short hair, black 4 dr, followed you. Interested? ☎ 3309.

Kabuzi-Japan Center 10/12 9:30
Believe you introduced yourself as Tom. We spoke in the locker area, restroom, lobby & by parking lot. You were extremely handsome. I'm Mike. Please call. ☎ 3310.

Mark In Touch Sat 10/12
You: Caucasian & cute as hell. Me: Asian-American. We spoke briefly. I asked if you were from L.A. Wanna have dinner or coffee some time? I'd like to get in touch! ☎ 3311.

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Hairy HIV+ Leatherman ISO Mate
Healthy, hunky, muscled, goateed, fun man ISO hairy, HIV+ male into working out, hanging out SOMA bare chested, pinball, & butt banging (your butt!). LTR possible. ☎ 3116.

Seeking Passionate GLM
For fun, friendship, & possible LTR+ Me: GWM, 33, 5'10", 168#, br/br, caring, sensitive & down to earth. Let's dance under the moonlight. ☎ 3117.

Wanted: North Bay GWM
GWM, 20, 5'8", 185#, blond/blond, seeks friends first, but wants relationship. You: 24-31, medium build, NS/ND. Light drink OK. ☎ 3118.

Would You Mind If I'm Asian
GAM, 26 yo, 5'7", 140#, attractive, easy-going, honest, sincere & fun to be with. Seeking WM, 26-37, for friendship poss. LTR. Let's meet. You never know what's going to happen. ☎ 3119.

Your Well-Sucked Dick
Shoots spurts after spurt of thick white cream, good to last drop. If you'll unload a real mouthful, call me. ☎ 3120.

Have A Foot Or Leg Injury?
Are you in a cast, brace, bandages, crutches, wheelchair or use a cane. Age & race unimportant. Me: Asian, 23, 145#, 5'8", glding. ☎ 3121.

Muscular GAM Wants Lover
29, 5'6", 140#, 28" W, handsome, intelligent, kind, hot body, bubblebutt bottom, in Santa Clara, seeks GWM, 25-35, slim, muscular, top, hung u, HIV- to love & share meaningful life together. ☎ 3122.

Welcome Shoppers (18-22)
One time sale on young 18-40 writer/artist, 5'9", 178# 8M. Into all music, movies, having the time of my life w/one W/L/H GM for friendship or possible relationship. Me & you: cute, smart, funny & HIV-, NS, light drinker. Bring your coupons (18-22) ☎ 3123.

I'm Special Are You?
I'm a GWM, HIV-, looking for a real man w/lots of LTC w/feelings who is not conceded about self. SF area please. ☎ 3124.

River Phoenix Incarnation
Seeks gentleman for romantic rendezvous & political brotherhood. 22 yo model, Buddhist dreamer. ☎ 3219.

Need A New Boyfriend?

WM, 52, (looks 30's) 5'11", 155, clean shaven, NS/ND, HIV-, looking for AM, 25-35, short, slim, for LTR monogamous. Like 60's-80's, music, theater, dining, travel, scuba, photography, movies, dancing, cats. Affectionate, loyal, marriage-minded. ☎ 3125.

GBM 6'2", 185#. Very Attractive
Seeks GBM Same age or older for fun time, a caring, lovable guy. Friend Poss. lover-serious only. ☎ 3126.

South Bay GWM
New to the Bay Area, 5'8", 145#, healthy, HIV- sincere 35. Seeking GWM, 25-35, slim, masculine for relationship. ☎ 3127.

Italian Bottom
SF, HIV- seeks GWM, middle Eastern or Latino Top. Safe sex. Be 35-60. HIV-. I'm 48, 5'6", 170#, nice build. Very cute. ☎ 3128.

Taurus Man Wanted
For fun, romance, pleasure. UR: hirsute, affectionate, masculine, erotic, 30-45. I'm creative, sensitive, humorous, 30 yr old Cancer, open to LTR. ☎ 3129.

GBM Seeks Blue Eyed Devil
Extremely glding, well built, 6'1", city boy. Don't mean to be conceited, but I have a great job, personality & education. You are HIV-, 21-35, over 5'9", in shape WM. ☎ 3130.

Bodybuilder Bondage Bottom
Wants to meet experienced bondage Master for on going explorations & developing relationship. ☎ 3131.

Handsome Muscular Italian
GWM, 38, 6'2", 185#, into fitness, travel, romance & quiet times, seeks another HIV-, extremely well hung man for monogamous relationship. ☎ 3132.

Suicide Blonde 25
Attractive guy, platinum hair, olive skin, brown eyes, 5'9", 165#, Latin/Italian, University student. Seeking Latins or Caucasians, 21-35, for friendship first maybe LTR. ☎ 3133.

Looking For A Rough Fuck
I'm cute, friendly, passionate & black & I'm looking for white guys to take me "out" and "buy" me things. You must be sincere & a "rough" fuck. ☎ 3167.

Some Have Tried, They Weren't U
Glding sincere, Asian, Mid 40's, 5'9", 150#, HIV+, very good health. Seeking mid-life soulmate w/passion & compassion. You: GWM/L, well built over 5'9", a gentle friend be mine until the time's end. ☎ 3214.

Professional GWM Seeks GBM
GWM, 38, 6'1", 200#, dark hair/eyes, NS/ND, seeks GBM wanting a stable relationship. Be clean cut, masculine, NS/ND. Muscular a +. Be ht/wt proportionate. ☎ 3215.

GAM Seeks GWM
For friendship, possibly more I'm 19, glding, romantic, ready for dating again. You: 18-30, NS/ND, HIV-. Let's get together & see what happens! ☎ 3216.

Seeking Relationship
You: Harley Biker, black bike, lots of leather & looks hot. Me: full leather, Mr. Biker look, tall, glding, HIV-, independent, 280#, blue eyes, white hair, top (but I can swing both ways). I like fantasy trips call me & let's talk. ☎ 3217.

Lonely Asian Sking Bottom Man
I'm top, Asian. I'm healthy & looking for sincere, warm, honest, like a father type of person. Age over 50 years old. ☎ 3218.

Black Man 40, HIV-, 6'1"
Dreads, beard looking for companion &/or friend. I'm into walks, cooking, music, hiking, camping. I'm not looking for a sex buddy. I'm celibate, vegetarian & into various spiritual practices. ND/NS/ND I'm a musician music teacher & musician. I live in the mountains of Mendocino County. ☎ 3220.

If You Treat Me Nice
I'll treat you better. 36 yr, Filipino seeking GWM, 35-45, for love, dining, theater & more. Beard/mustache or goatee, Gaters, 49ers A+. ☎ 3221.

GWMP Seeks Similar GWM
Yng 52, 5'8", 145#. You are 35+, affectionate, w/feet firm on the ground. Prefer versatile top. Alameda A+. ☎ 3222.

Couple Seeks Asian
GWC, 40's, HIV-, seeks attractive Asian (third for romance, maybe more. Twice the heat, twice the attention. ☎ 3223.

Platonic Glding Slim Retired
Guy. Mustache, crewcut, ht, 5'9", 150#, HIV-, seeks similar guy. Non-sexual. Interests: music, opera, politics, science, etc. smoke, bars OK. Restaurants Not SF. S 3224.

Buffed GBM 4 Quality GWM
Muscled, masculine, attractive & intelligent, intensely spirited African-American professional seeks handsome, mainstream, socially confident, mature, witty, "gym-toned" Euro-American hunk! for sex, laughs, friendship...maybe more! ☎ 3312.

Quality Seeks Quality
Seeking a man who is intelligent, compassionate, caring, witty, adventurous, inquisitive. WM, 6', 175#, black hair, ice blue eyes, handsome. Race unimportant. ☎ 3313.

Houseboy/Son Wanted
Ex-military (23-28) for live in position that can take bare bottom spanking. Dad, 42, 5'11", 170#. ☎ 3316.

Body Positive
We are a social group for healthy minded, HIV+ men. We have monthly potluck socials, as well as, special weekend events. This is a great way to meet new friends. ☎ 3314.

Duluth To San Francisco?

GWM, 22, nursing student, very fit & athletic, seeks Latino/black male my age for friendship. US athletic, mature, very cute, into sports, coffee talks, theater, weight-room, cuddling. ☎ 3315.

Peninsula Homeboy

Prof. GWM, 50, 6', 185#, HIV-, like Wesco boots, ropes, collars, chaps. Want to enjoy quiet evenings watching TV w/about HIV-, 25-45 yo. Under 5'9". S 3317.

GWM Professional 31, 5'11"

Hazel/brown stocky framed seeks receptive perceptive boy/man to share hot times, tender moments. Not into bar scene. Be GLM/GWM, 28-35, literate, responsible, NS, like drink OK. ☎ 3318.

Biker Bud Wanted Leather Sex

Motocycle buddy wanted for leather fun & rides, sex. Must have own motorcycle. "Let's ride." Me: slim, 180#, 6'2", brn/eyes/hair, body hair. ☎ 3319.

Attractive Chinese Male

GAM, 26, HIV-, glding, 130#, 5'7", smart, humor, professional. Seeking GWM/GLM, 21-26, HIV-, masculine guy for relationship & friendship. ☎ 3320.

Longhair & Longhair Like Me

Cute, late 30's, 5'10", 145#, broad shoulders, dk blond hair natural, healthy fanatic, loves GLM rock, oral gentle sharing. ☎ 3321.

Rare GAM Seeks Possible LTR

Born in Shanghai, 48 looks 30ish, attractive, 5'9", 150#, gym-toned, hot body. Loves music of Philip Glass & art of Irving Norman. Seeks GWM under 30. Spiritual, sexy, fit & be yourself. ☎ 3322.

Blue-Eyed Bayou Boy

29, 5'10", 165#. Affectionate, confident, creative, professional ISO 1 man (25-40) who is masculine, interested in the world, somewhat dominant/toppish in bed-gallitariat in relationships. Smoker preferred. ☎ 3323.

Looking 4 Special 1

GAM 30, 5'6", 145#, HIV-, attractive, humorous, smart, passionate w/many interests, ISO GWM/GAM between 25-40, hiv/prop. For friendship maybe more. ☎ 3324.

Are You Dark & Handsome?

30 yr old Eurasian, 6'1", 180#, seeks mature, intelligent, masculine man for romantic friendship. ☎ 3325.

New To San Francisco

GWM, 38, 5'11", 160#, looking to meet new friends. Interests include traveling, exploring the outdoors, the arts, food, music & adventure. Masculine, sincere, friendly, open, seeking same. ☎ 3326.

ISO Japanese Lover (Of Bears)

White teddy bear, 35, ISO younger, thin, hard-bodied, short, uncultured, expert, great kisser & cuddler. Other interests: books, scabbie, Star Trek, BS, sports. ☎ 3327.

Affectionate?

Friendly, intelligent, attractive GWM, 32, seeks other GMs for hugging, kissing, cuddling, etc. I'm 5'7", 135#, HIV-, use crutches. You're 21-40, kind, honest, HIV-. ☎ 3328.

Seeking Colt Like Leather Master

Be sane, clean, muscular, hairy, HIV+, looking to develop, hot, handsome, 5'8", shaved swimmer flogging boy for BB, BD, masochism, natural mouth & ass service piece. No balls, don't call. ☎ 3329.

Friends First! Sex Later

Educated GAM, HIV-, 34yo, 5'3", 145#. Enjoys weight lifting, natural & life sciences, Star Trek, BS, horror movies, art. Seeks HIV-, non-Asian, 25-45 yo, w/similar interests. Science-minded men A+. No fucking, S&M drugs. ☎ 3330.

SM Shamanism

Shamanism master interested in Shamanism wants independent submissive and/or masochist 20-45 yo for partnership. Be in shape. I'm 5'9", 180#, handsome, uncultured, muscular, sadist. Serious only. ☎ 3331.

36 yo College Student Looks

I'm 6', HIV-, w/bicyclist's build. Relatively untalented, somewhat naive, but trust my instincts a lot. Need 30-40 yo, predominantly masculine, easygoing, sincere. Value arts, personal fitness. ☎ 3332.

European Born Latin Lover

Mid 20's, 6', 170#, brn/hd, killer smile. Photography student, enjoys hiking, walks on beach ISO Latin/white male under 40, Warm, loyal, masculine-not a Castro boy & drug free. ☎ 3333.

Submissive Versatile Oral Bottom

Attr. "Daddy" buzz, clean cut, mus-tache, trim body, 5'9", 150#, 29" w, hairy chest, deep throat, hot butt to serve attr. masculine men in good shape. No reciprocation necessary. ☎ 3337.

Need A Fuck Buddy

Hot, hung, handsome, HIV-, clean cut/shaven, versatile oral, young 41, 6'1", 180#, seeks 35-45 muscle tits, smooth, any race types, singles or couples for safe, sweaty sessions. ☎ 3338.

Hot Bottom Wants Your Dick

Let me suck on your love tool (best in town), then you fuck me. 50ish, 5'8", cute ass, great technique. You're taller, well endowed, NS, 35-55. Let's talk. ☎ 3339.

Horny Redhead Seeks Same

I'm 39, 5'10", 170#, glding & hung. Looking for another hung redhead for fun. ☎ 3342.

Eight Inches Long, 7" Around

36 yo, smooth bodybuilder not into sucking looking for long lasting cock suckers, assholes into meat my size. Whap all lips. Tight butts, fit, HIV-, safe only. Heavy asplay A+++. ☎ 3343.

Handsome Hairy Italian

GWM, 40's, 6', 185#, brn/br, hung, top. Have LTR, need sexual outlet w/similar GWM. Btm/versatile. HIV A+. SF only. ☎ 3344.

Worship My Hot Croch

Masculine, hairy bear wants to offer up his butch spread for insatiable oral expert. Healthy, HIV-, verbal dominant little stud wants hungry buddy for long intense service. ☎ 3345.

I Wanna Suck Your Ass...

Looking for well-built, hot studs who want their butts eaten out to perfection by an Italian stud, MST, 43, 6', 190#, rugged build. Call now. ☎ 3346.

Muscle Chew Down

Seeking muscle buddy into sucking, hard chest play, JO. Yo attractive, 25 yo w/hard muscle body. Me: very hot body builder w/ big pecs, great body, face & dick. ☎ 3347.

Dominant Top WM

6'2", 210#, seeks cute bottom guys to experiment & try new fantasies with. I'm safe & want you to tell me all. Fats & fems OK. Asians A+. ☎ 3348.

Just Fun Hot Sex

5'8", 135#, 40, blond, hung, good shape, versatile top seeks average looking easy going, 25-45, seeking proportionate to height, white, Latin, Asian, Pacific Islander, versatile bottoms for hot sex. ☎ 3349.

Wanted In Shape Top

Attractive GWM, 5'10", 170#, 35, brn/br, in shape, muscular bottom seeks attrac-tive, in shape, hung, masculine top between 25-40 for fun safe sex. ☎ 3350.

Just Shut-Up & Ride

30, WM, 5'10", 195#, blond/blue, clean-cute, muscle guy wants riders—Rough/tough guys A+. RU man enough? ☎ 3351.

Big Dick HIV+ GWM Top Wanted

Healthy HIV+ GWM, bottom, 37, 170#, 5'11", seeks GWM top w/ rock hard dick. Give it to me. ☎ 3356.

Hard Slim Men Butt/Fuck Want

I'm young, sexy, sincere & educated & I'm looking for white guys to take me out shopping & to rape my virginial hole. Sincere only!! ☎ 3366.

It's A B.J.. Not World Peace

For you guys who know that already, cum kick back & enjoy comprehensive oral relief from: GWM/bottomless throat 6', 170#, 6'5", S/P beard, 40's, big grin, big heart, fairly big brain. Nice fella too. Arrive full, leave empty. ☎ 3368.

Smooth Hungry Black Butt

It's sex, GWM, 42, looks younger, HIV+, 5'9", 135#, wants hot aggressive tops, 20-45, for cocksucking, rimming & fuc-king. Must like fucking, slender, blk, super tight butt. You can fuck it any way you like. Seriously only. ☎ 3325.

Mature, Masc, & Healthy HIV+

With a fertile mind that could be your sexual playground needs hot sex and/or companionship. ☎ 3329.

Big Dick, Versatile, Lasting

GWM, 35, 5'11", handsome, normal, out of shape but a slim 157#, wants similar well hung guys or couple for long fuck sessions. 35-50 preferred. ☎ 3326.

Pretty Young Thing

Androgynous GWM, 33, 6', 155#, b/bl, 6", smooth, seeks warm, gentle greater than or equal to 6" bolsters top for fun. Likes kissing, playing, JO, being close. Clean only. HIV+ ☎ 3327.

Expert Cocksucker

Senior GWM, 57", 130#, begs to worship masc, verbal topman, over 40, wet, proportion. Cauc or Asian. ☎ 3328.

Love Going Down On It & More

Oversexed w/male HIV-, 57, will take good care of slim built males, couples, 1-55, hung lo, or sm. HIV-. Like being videoed or photo when doing it. ☎ 3330.

Tongue Wanted

GWM, 36, needs hairy butt & nuts licked. Prefer GWM, 20's-30's, for great mutual oral fun, attractive, ordinary guy awaits your call. ☎ 3331.

Are You Fit To Be Tied?

Hot, GWM, 43, 6', 170#, in shape top ISO Asian guys who like to be tied up, spanked & force-fed. HIV+ OK. ☎ 3332.

Hot Nasty Hole ISO Dildo Work

Attractive, submissive dildo bottom exhibitionist, seeks nasty, dominant tops. Like dirty talk, slings, mirrors, possibly video. Call me & let's meet & get real nasty. Enthusiasm is most important. ☎ 3333.

Your Dom Hung Hndsm & Horny

2 Glding bottoms will service you & or your friends or get played anywhere & as often as you like, doorways, basement, rooftops. Get kinky. ☎ 3334.

Kick Back!

GWM, 5'10", 160#, br/br, c/n shaven, fun, friendly, lov cock & balls. SK. Masc, trim, GWM, GAM, 18-40. Couples OK. Reg service possible. ☎ 3335.

Condom Fucking

slender, attractive top, 35, brown hair, tall, blonde, blue-green eyes. Nice dick seeks attractive, in shape, guy to help me adjust to fucking w/a condom. ☎ 3337.

Afternoon Sex Buddy

Into extended periods of ass-massage, ex-cotic spanking & love to screw. Me: attrac-tive, GWM, 46, 6'5", 250#, husky build. You: attrac-tive, GWM, 18-35, slim, smooth/mod-erate body hair & nice buns. ☎ 3338.

Experienced Massage Partner

Wanted by professionally trained masseur, 38, 5'11", attractive, great body, creative hands. Let's exchange wonderful massage w/expert hands. You: handsome, 18-45, well-trained, ready to share sensuous en-ergy. ☎ 3339.

Want Dirty Talking JO Buddy

Strictly JO, DT, CB, worshipping while partying late evenings-vip place. Masculine guy desires same. Age, size, race, unimportant. Desire to worship cock & talk nasty is important. No shaved body parts, videos, mirrors, other distractions. ☎ 3340.

Dark Man Wanted

GWM, handsome, 6'4", 185#, HIV+, healthy, seeking endowed black or Latin men. I provide expert oral service to those who know what they want. ☎ 3341.

Hot 29 YO Latino Looking Hot

Guy, love 3 ways, Redwood City area. Exchanged massage. Please call me. ☎ 3343.

Top First Expert HIV+ Healthy

For your pleasure talented fingers & fist, sling, full beard, furry chest, 7X6 cut, unimportant. Desire to worship cock & talk nasty is important. No shaved body parts, videos, mirrors, other distractions. ☎ 3344.

Granddaddy Seeks Grandson

18-30 who prefers company of an older early 70's man both in & out of bed for lots of loving & sexual times. Gay or bi-curious. ☎ 3345.

Let's Wrestle

Muscular, handsome GWM seeks others turned on by wrestling. Open to all skill levels & fantasies. No heavy rough hous-ing. Good, clean, sweaty fun. Go ahead & call—you won't be disappointed. ☎ 3346.

Plain & Simple

My tight bubble butt needs your hard probing dick. Me: 37, GWM, 5'7", 140#, mustache, goatee, shaved head. You: 35+, inshape. ☎ 3334.

Tight Butt Needs Dick

6', 178#, flat top bottom loves to suck & loves to get fucked. Let's do it. Fill me up! ☎ 3341.

Hungry Boy

Seeks a strong mature Daddy or big brother to train me for his pleasures. Make me your pussy boy. I'm 36, GWM, 5'8", 140#, mustache/goatee, shaved head. ☎ 3335.

Bike Messengers Wanted

Thin, pierced, tattooed wanted by hungry, handsome, healthy, Italian dude for suck-ing & body worship. No games or obligations. ☎ 3336.

Give It Up To A Hard Hunky Man

You know that your hot mouth & tight ass are there to satisfy your strong muscle-man. Thinking about his hard body slam-ming your butt makes your hungry hole twitch, your ass wet. Handsome Hawaiian Hun, 35. ☎ 3337.

Experienced Cocksucker

GWM, 24, 5'7", 125#, blond/blue eyes: Looking for Hispanics, Latinos; & black young men who are hung & want there cocks sucked dry. Daytime only. Leave de-scription & number. Hurry. ☎ 3338.

Man's Best Friend

For nicely built young men, in-shape, cock worshipping bottom seeks into stories, etc., on consensual interspecies sexual contact. ☎ 3339.

Safe Sane Consensual: "Daddy?"

Sexy, muscular, tall, slender, hard-bodied service-oriented, long-haired bottom seeks dominant masculine, in-shape, "together" top for variety of hot explorations. Can we discuss possibilities? ☎ 3340.

Sexy GAM Bottom Seeks GWM

Handsome GAM, 28, clean-cut, smooth-skinned, bottom seeks GWM (under 35) for hot sex. Military, athletes, blondes A+. ☎ 3345.

Handsome Athletic Smooth Asian

Male is interested in receiving lengthy, sensual, intelligent, employed, 25-40, short, experienced or licensed masseurs on a regular basis. ☎ 3342.

L/W FF And Dildo Bottom

For nicely built young men, I am 44 years old & considered ruffly handsome. Fair is shape & eager to please. ☎ 3343.

Free Quality Massage

For nicely built young men, I'm exp., prof., 6'2", glding, 44, masculine, strong, sensual, erotic, Swedish tech to meet your needs. Talk. sincere. ☎ 3344.

Bald, Chubby Black Man 44

With a 9" butt plunger offers hot quickies to bottoms who are experienced, mascu-line, husky, mature, sincere. Calls re-turned 6AM to TAM M-F. All races. ☎ 3345.

Stud Butt Hole Licker

Muscular, athletic jck w/rimsset looking for a stud who gets off having his asshole worshipped by a handsome, hot tongue. ☎ 3346.

Need Someone

To take your orders, sir? GWM, 52, 5'9", 142#, HIV-, would like to massage sore spots & lick the others. Punish me if I don't. ☎ 3347.

White Butt On A Tan Body

Searching for a masculine young guy w/a lean tight build for massage, photo ses-sion, or whatever makes you happy. I'm a tan, trim, masculine WM, 41. ☎ 3348.

Great Downtown Head

GWM, 47, bearded, HIV-, total oral ser-vice for 8" or better. Any age/race prefer uncut, no beauty but great cock sucker. Sincere only. ☎ 3349.

Dominant Male

Seeks part time house slave, age, looks unimportant. Must be masculine, submis-sive & eager to please. For house cleaning & sexual servitude on a regular basis. ☎ 3346.

Sex Buddy Or Couple

Oral, anal bottom seeks one or two GWM, 51, great shape (5'11", 170#), playful & experienced. Age, race, exp. unimportant, willing to teach. ☎ 3350.

Butch Muscular Tops:

Wanted by masculine, muscular, 6', 190#, 29 yr., brown hair/eyes, GWM bot-tom. I'm HIV+, asymptomatic & looking for muscular, hung GWM or GWM tops for hot times. HIV- is OK. ☎ 3347.

Oral Expert For Hung Males

BM, 6'1", 180#, clean shaven, muscular, masculine, hung. Will service other hung males, 18-40. Other things possible. Bi, straight, OK. ☎ 3351.

Let Go & Give It Up

Handsome, muscular, well-defined top dad seeks viry, buzzed, hungry bottom under 35, eager, desire to serve, guided, nurtured. HIV+ prop. Applicants should be employed/employable, have clear idea of being "boy." ☎ 3363.

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Very good, 20 yrs experience, deep wide (elbow, 2 hands), to fast hard & pisto-nigant punch. Daddy bottom, attr, 50's, 5'11", 165#, short S&P beard & hair, tats, TT, amazing deep throat, FF & DT. ☎ 3355.

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Masculine WM, 34 looking to hear from other men to explore scat action & share scat fantasies. ☎ 3356.

Asian Boy Master

Glding, 34yo, seeks attractive, in shape, WM dog-slay, 30-45, capable of taking verbal abuse & physical torture. Intense training for candidate w/right attitude. Experience preferred. Call to apply. ☎ 3357.

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Pledge master/coach gives preview of Frat initiation. Position 1. Bare butt up for paddle. Position 2. On knees hungry mouth open. ☎ 3358.

Is Yours Unique?

If it is bent, crooked, unusually small, large, fat, etc., I'm a sensitive, in shape, professional, early 50's, HIV-, GWM w/whom you can safely explore & satisfy your desires & needs. ☎ 3359.

Quality Slave Boy Wanted

By responsible, attrac, 40's, in shape Master. Boy should be handsome, in shape, intelligent, employed, 25-40, short, submissive & masochistic. You will be my prize property: chained, whipped & cared for. ☎ 3360.

Small Dick?

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Manhole Wanted

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Glding male, 30, 5'6", smooth, athletic, bubble butt, seeking other young (under 40) attractive guys into spawning. Your ass or mine. But if it's mine I like a heavy spanking. ☎ 3351.

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GWM, in shape, 44, hairy butt, scat top. Looking for bottoms, 40-50, acting out, molesting, incest, underwear, suit A+. ☎ 3355.

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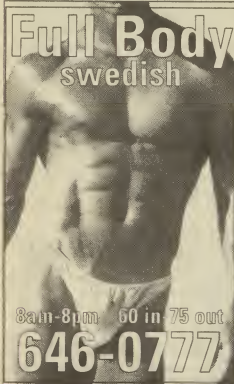
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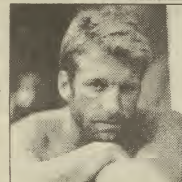
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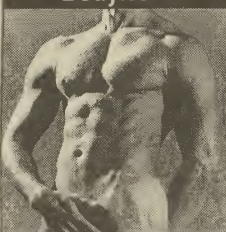
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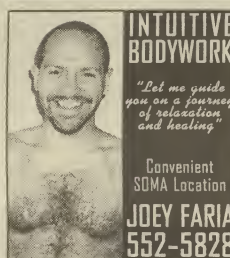
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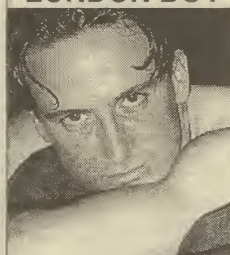


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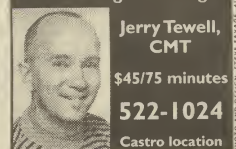
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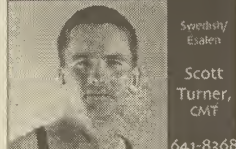
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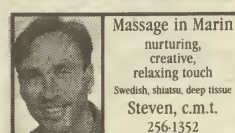
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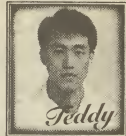
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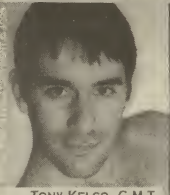
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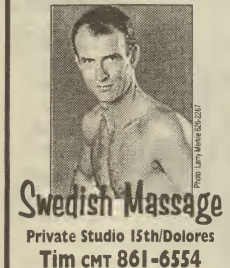
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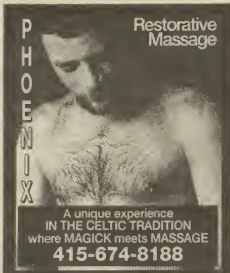
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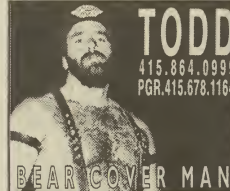
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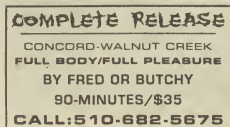
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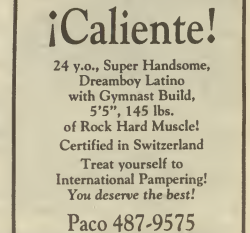
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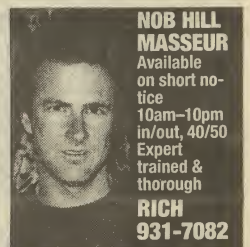
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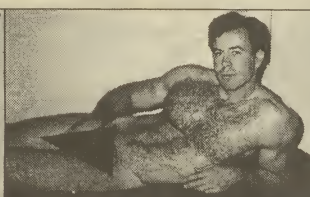
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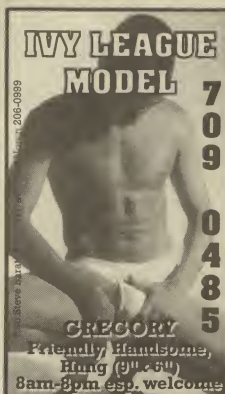
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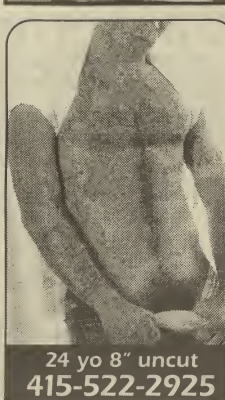
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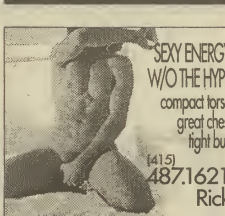
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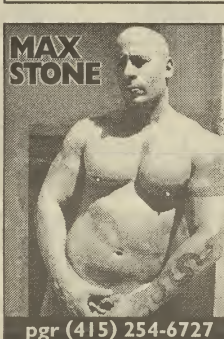
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Take your time, enjoy yourself. Let
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Right here, gorgeous Arab boy, fun,
5'8", 150 lbs, dreamy olive eyes.
PAGE: MAROC 208-1301

Out/5F/Nite only, After 6PM E46

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Big taste UR wet nozzle, gimme bath?
Come 2 service station, you pump, me
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Hndsome, Muscular Italian
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Hot 24yo, 6 ft, 200, solid light skin 8 1/2X
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220 lbs very muscular 431-5923 E43

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Masculine, Handsome, Sexy
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Submissive mobile bottom ready for
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br/bl, smooth • Kink to comfort, SF
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Page 247-8959 your # then 35. \$60 E43

2 CUTE YOUNG TOPS

Both 23, well hung, short hair
1 blond, bl eyes, 5'10", 1 dk brn hair
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24 Hours Pager 313-1552
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LEATHERMAN, SM.BD.
WS, CBT, FETISH, ALL
FANTASIES. 38YO.
6'1", 210#, BROWN
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7" UNCUT. FEATURED
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Handsome, clean-cut, hung, versatile
Top 24 Hours page 207-8089 E43

Pecs & Nipple Work by muscular guy
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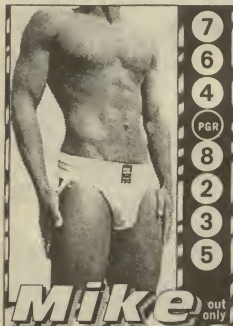
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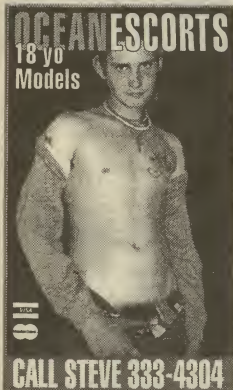
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MODELS/ESCORTS



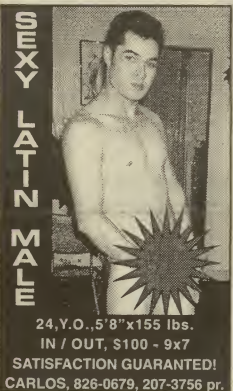
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7
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18 yo Models

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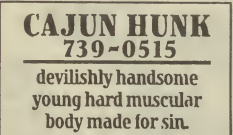
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24 Y.O., 5'8" x 155 lbs.
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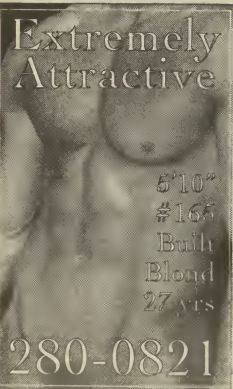
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739-0515

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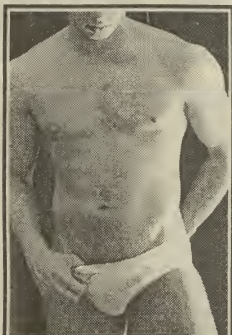


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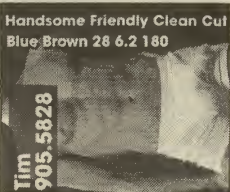
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6FT, SMOOTH SWIMMER'S
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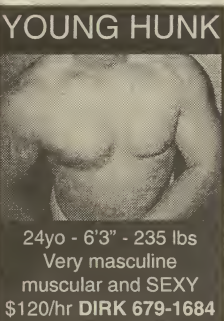
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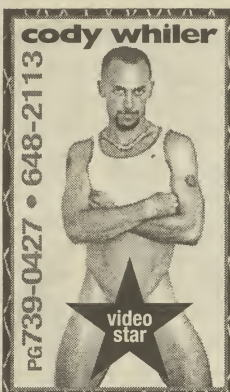
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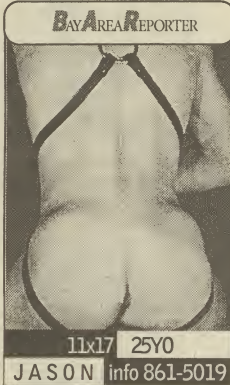
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Straight looking handsome with boyish
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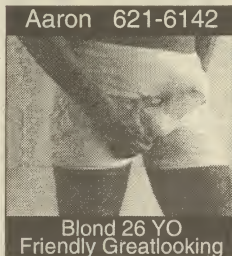
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Redhead
Smooth, Built Top
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LATIN MAN/BOY 20YO
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BROTHERS, 25 & 27
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